VOL. 6
BY FUMINO HAYASHI
BASED ON AN ORIGINAL STORY BY
GAINAX • KHARA
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ANGELIC DAYS

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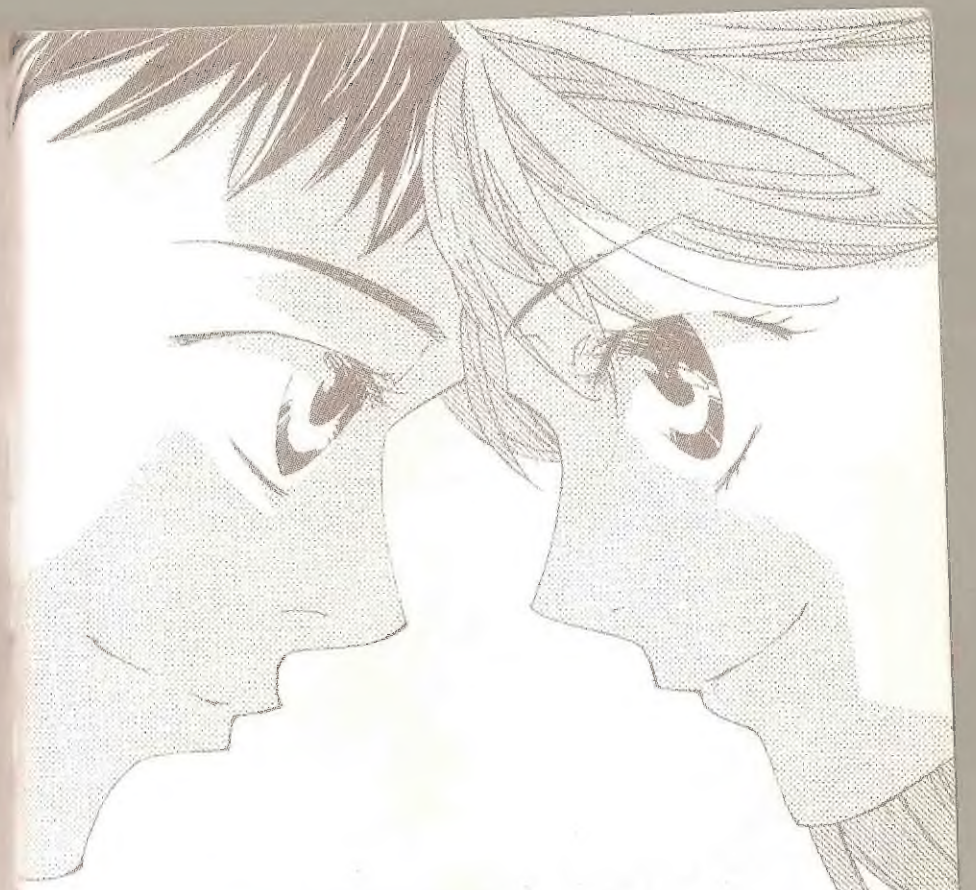
CHAPTER ONE: MISATO AND KAJI



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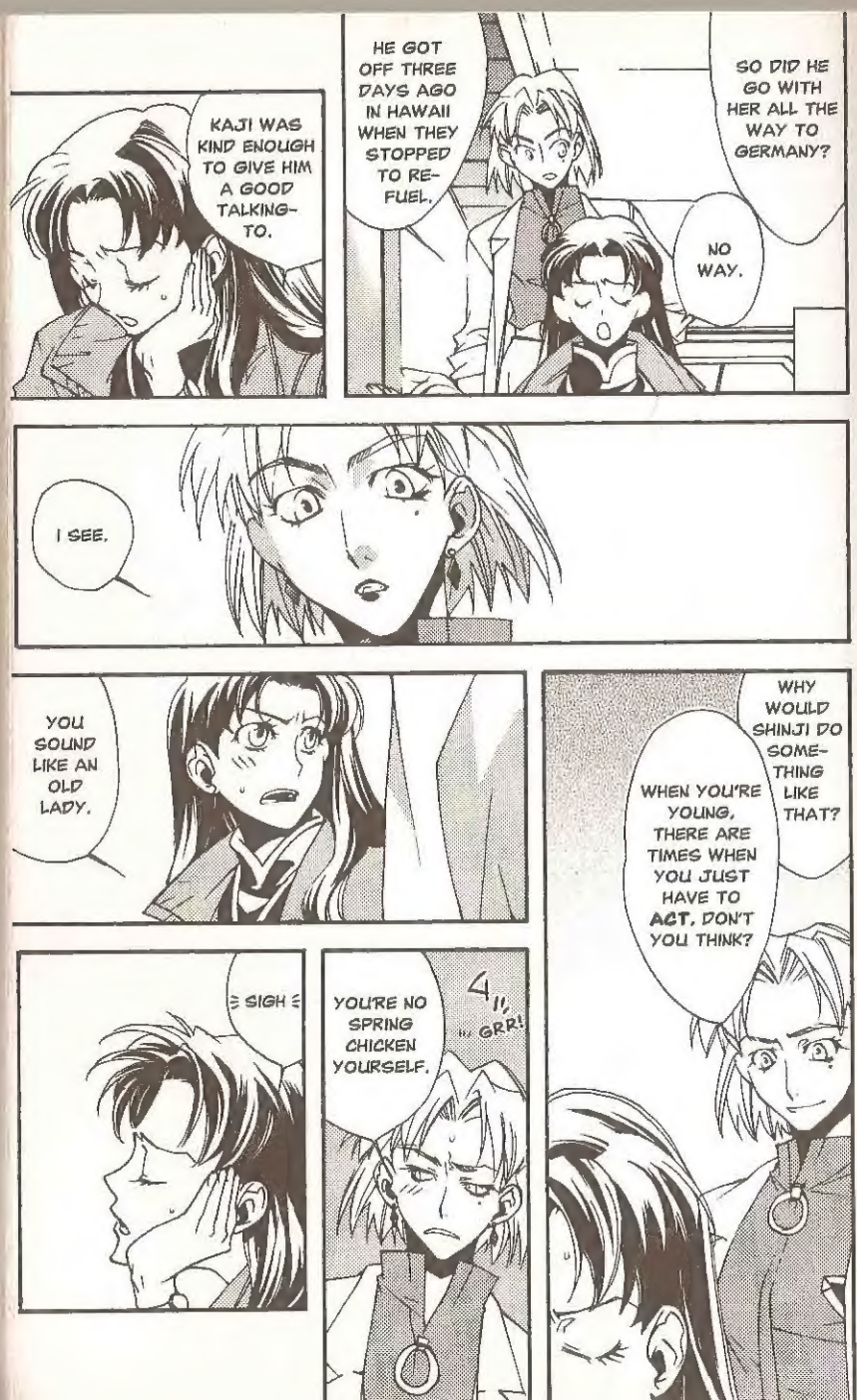
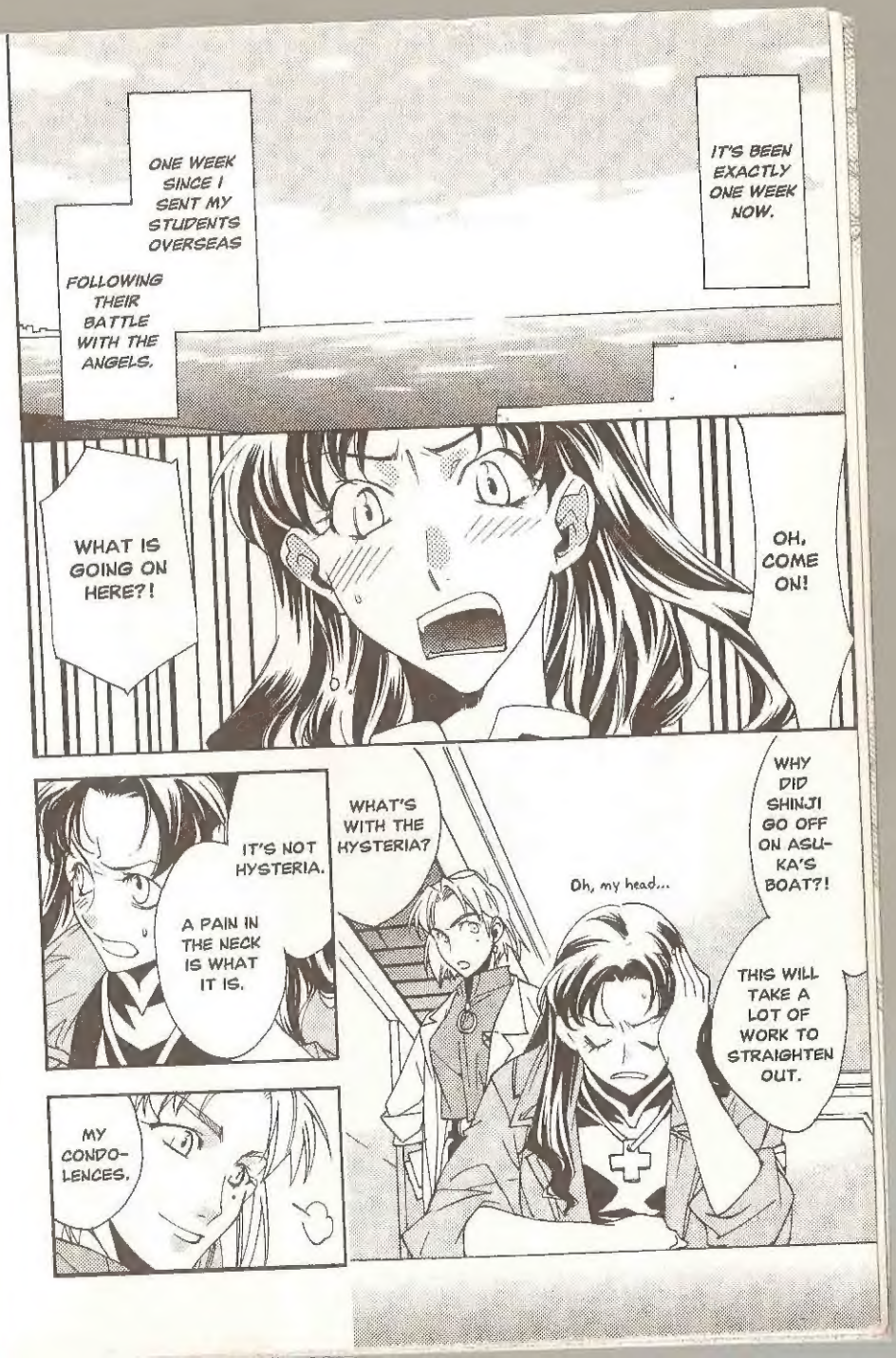
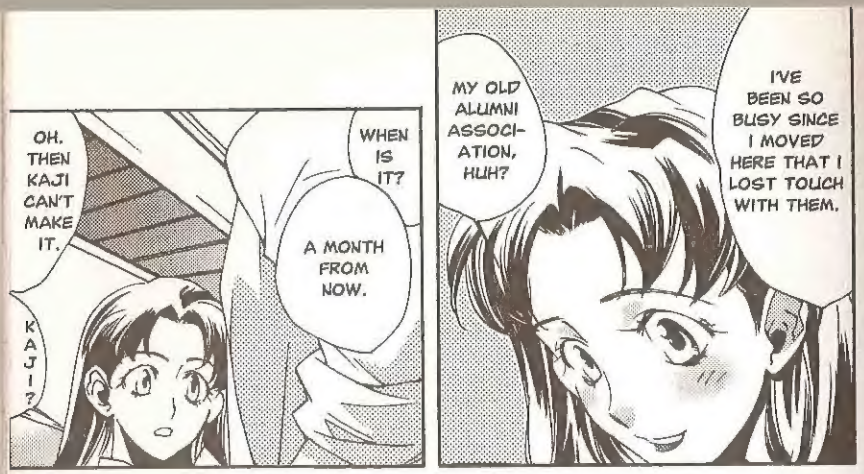
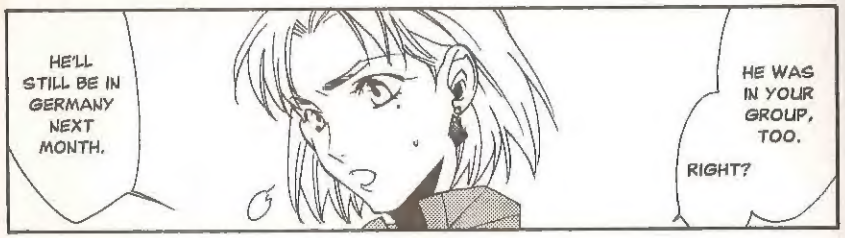
SAY...
DO YOU THINK WE CAN KEEP IT GOING?

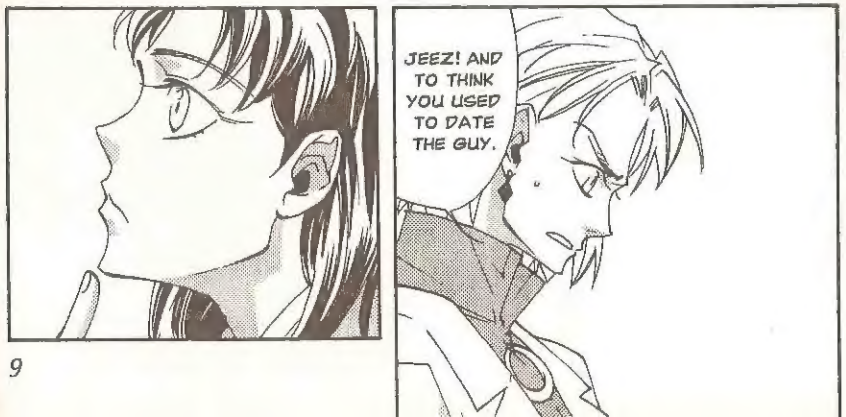

KAJI WAS KIND ENOUGH TO GIVE HIM A GOOD TALKING-TO.
HE GOT OFF THREE DAYS AGO IN HAWAII WHEN THEY STOPPED TO RE-FUEL.
SO DID HE GO WITH HER ALL THE WAY TO GERMANY?
NO WAY.
I SEE.
YOU SOUND LIKE AN OLD LADY.
WHY WOULD SHINJI DO SOME-THING LIKE THAT?
WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU JUST HAVE TO ACT. DON'T YOU THINK?
SIGH
YOU'RE NO SPRING CHICKEN YOURSELF.
... GRR!


IT'S BEEN EXACTLY ONE WEEK NOW.
ONE WEEK SINCE I SENT MY STUDENTS OVERSEAS FOLLOWING THEIR BATTLE WITH THE ANGELS.
WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?!
OH, COME ON!
IT'S NOT HYSTERIA.
A PAIN IN THE NECK IS WHAT IT IS.
MY CONDO-LENCES.
WHAT'S WITH THE HYSTERIA?
Oh, my head...
WHY DID SHINJI GO OFF ON ASU-KA'S BOAT?!
THIS WILL TAKE A LOT OF WORK TO STRAIGHTEN OUT.

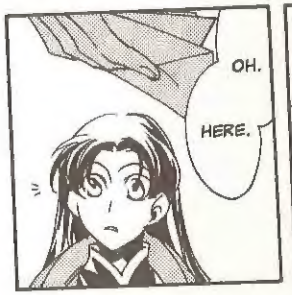

KAJI?
OH. THEN KAJI CAN'T MAKE IT.
WHEN IS IT?
A MONTH FROM NOW.
MY OLD ALUMNI ASSOCI-ATION, HUH?
I'VE BEEN SO BUSY SINCE I MOVED HERE THAT I LOST TOUCH WITH THEM.

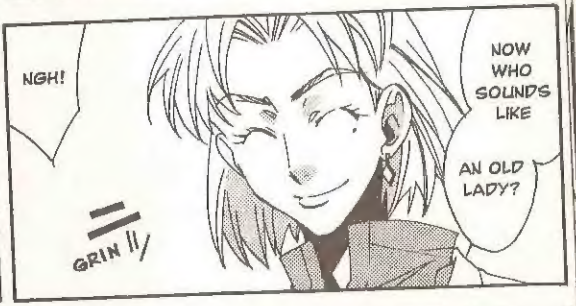

HE'LL STILL BE IN GERMANY NEXT MONTH.
HE WAS IN YOUR GROUP, TOO.
RIGHT?

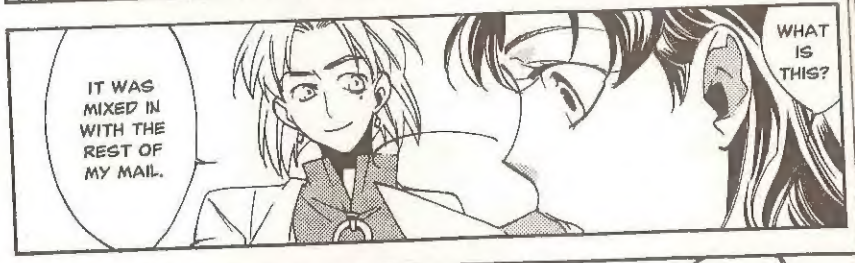
I WOULDN'T SAY I FORGOT...
YOU FORGOT? THAT'S COLD.
OH.
HEY, YOU'RE RIGHT.


JEEZ! AND TO THINK YOU USED TO DATE THE GUY.

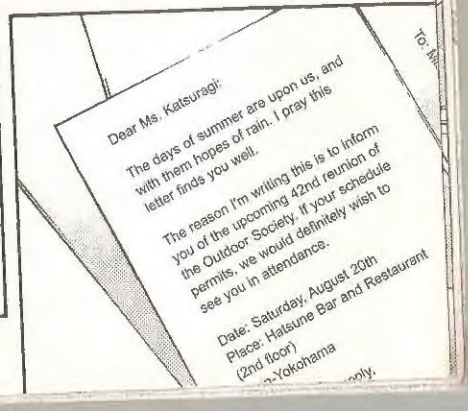
LIKE THAT?
DID I EVER HAVE A TIME


HERE.
OH.


NGH!
GRIN
NOW WHO SOUNDS LIKE AN OLD LADY?


IT WAS MIXED IN WITH THE REST OF MY MAIL.
WHAT IS THIS?

YUP!
AN ALUMNI ASSOCI-ATION?
IT'S FROM THE CLUB I WAS IN BACK IN COLLEGE! WOW, IT'S BEEN SO LONG...

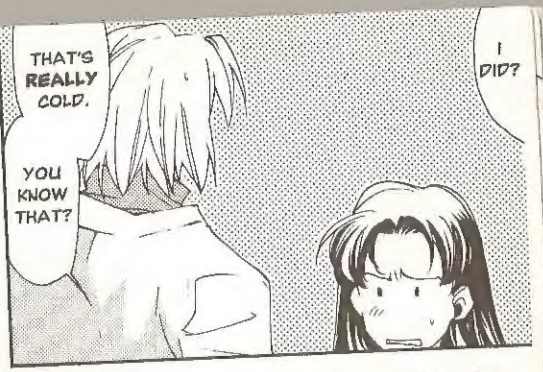

To: M
Dear Ms. Katsuragi:
The days of summer are upon us, and with them hopes of rain. I pray this letter finds you well.
The reason I'm writing this is to inform you of the upcoming 42nd reunion of the Outdoor Society. If your schedule permits, we would definitely wish to see you in attendance.
Date: Saturday, August 20th
Place: Hatsune Bar and Restaurant
(2nd floor)

KAT-SU-RAGI?
IT'S BEEN, WHAT, A WEEK?
JUST ABOUT. HOW ARE YOU?
GETTING BY.
EVERY DAY'S AN ADVENTURE. ASUKA'S IN PRETTY FOUL SPIRITS OVER HERE.
HA! MY CONDO-LENCES.

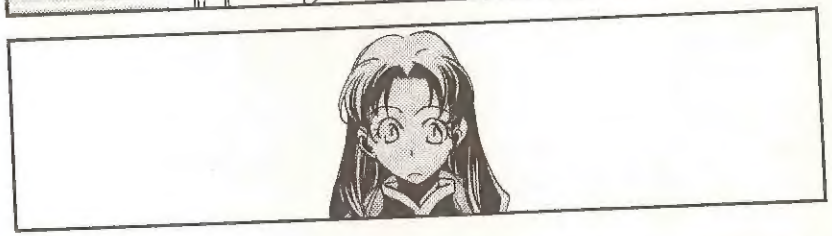
IT MUST BE LATE. ARE YOU STILL AT WORK?
NO, I'M HOME.
YOU SHOULD HURRY AND GET TO SLEEP. YOUR SKIN'S IN BAD ENOUGH SHAPE AS IT IS.
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!

I GOT AN INVITATION FROM THE GROUP WE BELONGED TO IN COLLEGE.
YOU PROBABLY GOT ONE, TOO.
N-
NO, NOT AT ALL!
SO IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANTED TO ASK ME?
UM
YES.
YOU FEELING LONELY ALL BY YOUR-SELF?

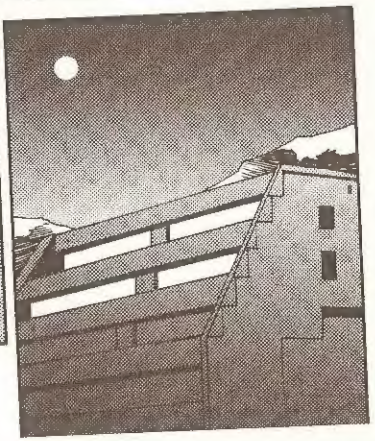
YEAH.
ANY-WAY YOU SHOULD GO.

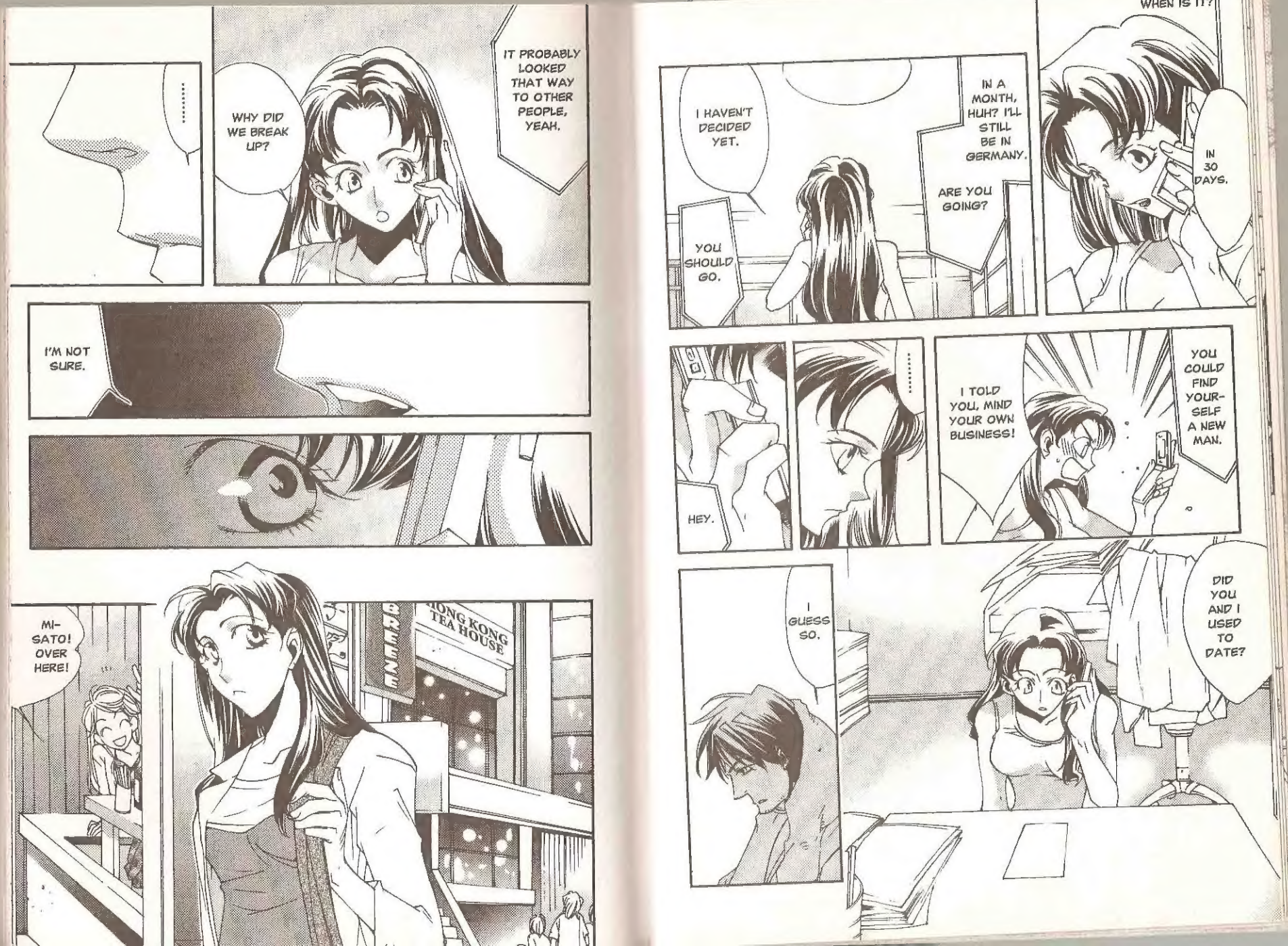

I DID?
THAT'S REALLY COLD.
YOU KNOW THAT?

SEE YOU.
PSSH



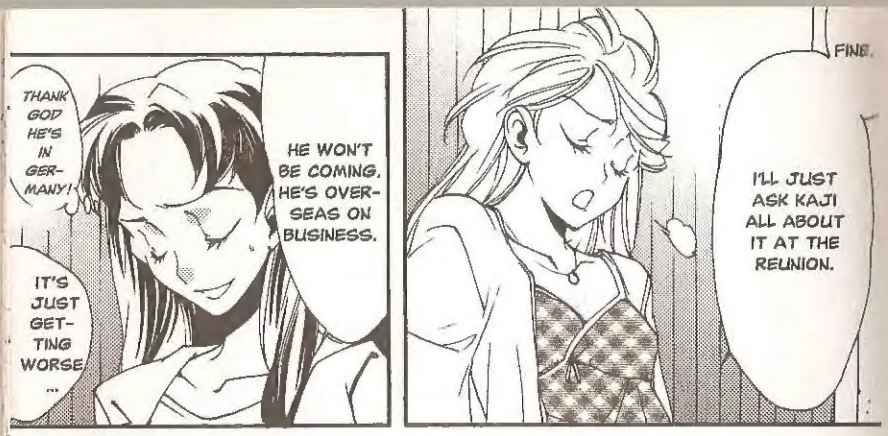
KAJI?
IT'S ME.
RING
RING
HELLO?

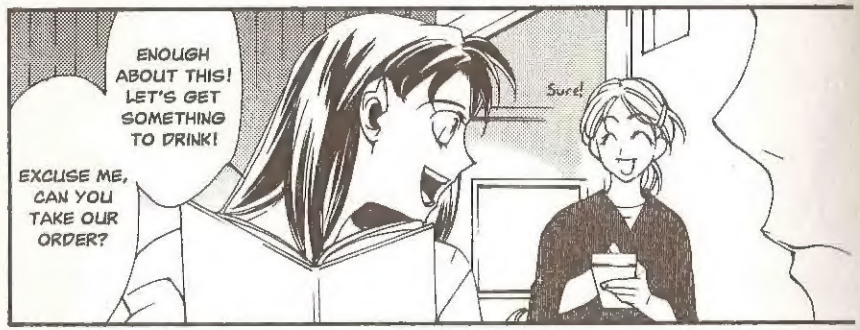



.....
WHY DID WE BREAK UP?
IT PROBABLY LOOKED THAT WAY TO OTHER PEOPLE, YEAH.
I'M NOT SURE.
MI-SATO! OVER HERE!
HONG KONG TEA HOUSE
WHEN IS IT?
IN 30 DAYS.
I HAVEN'T DECIDED YET.
IN A MONTH, HUH? I'LL STILL BE IN GERMANY.
ARE YOU GOING?
YOU SHOULD GO.
HEY.
.....
I TOLD YOU, MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
YOU COULD FIND YOURSELF A NEW MAN.
I GUESS SO.
DID YOU AND I USED TO DATE?

ZIP. NO DATES FOR SOME.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
TIME NOW.
SURE.
OK.
AND YOU'RE INVITED.
YOU'D BETTER COME!
YOU'RE 28, RIGHT? YOU SHOULD BE A LITTLE MORE CONCERNED!
YEAH, I GUESS.
WORK KEEPS ME SO BUSY THAT I JUST DON'T HAVE TIME.
HOW CAN YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT?
I ADMIRE YOU.
HUH?
BUT WORK'S AT A PRETTY IMPORTANT STAGE RIGHT NOW.
BACK IN COLLEGE, THE LAB YOU WORK AT NOW WAS AT THE TOP OF YOUR LIST, RIGHT?
YES.
FOR BEING ABLE TO THINK LIKE THAT.

SORRY.
YOU'RE TERRIBLE AT KEEPING IN TOUCH, YOU KNOW THAT?
GREAT, THANKS!
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE COLLEGE. SIX YEARS, RIGHT?
HOW ARE YA?
THNK
HA!
HA!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU!
MY OLD COLLEGE GROUP MADE ME FEEL SO NOSTALGIC.
AND SORRY TO CALL OUT OF THE BLUE. GETTING THAT INVITE FROM
FINALLY, I'M ENGAGED!
I'M HAPPY FOR YOU.
YUP!
WE'RE PLANNING THE CEREMONY FOR NEXT SPRING.
NO WAY! YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED?!


THANK GOD HE'S IN GERMANY!
HE WON'T BE COMING. HE'S OVERSEAS ON BUSINESS.
IT'S JUST GETTING WORSE...
FINE.
I'LL JUST ASK KAJI ALL ABOUT IT AT THE REUNION.


ENOUGH ABOUT THIS! LET'S GET SOMETHING TO DRINK!
EXCUSE ME, CAN YOU TAKE OUR ORDER?
Sure!

カラン
TNK

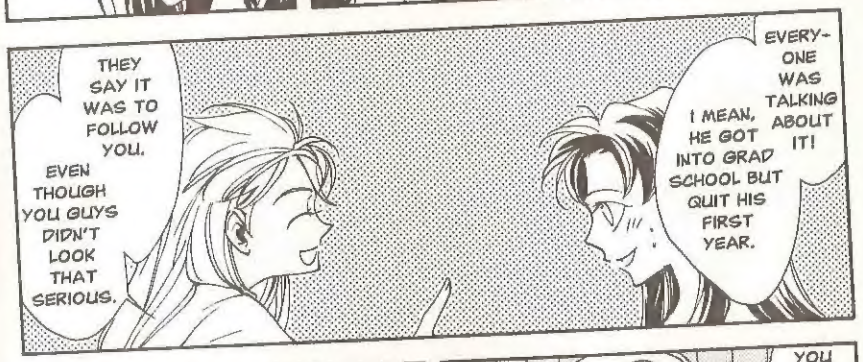
CREAK
キ//

HE'S IN FOR A LECTURE WHEN I GO PICK HIM UP!

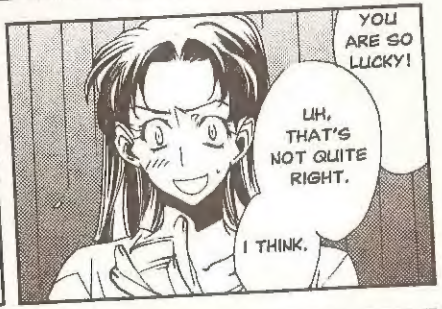
LET'S SEE. SHINJI WILL BE BACK...
TOMORROW, HUH?

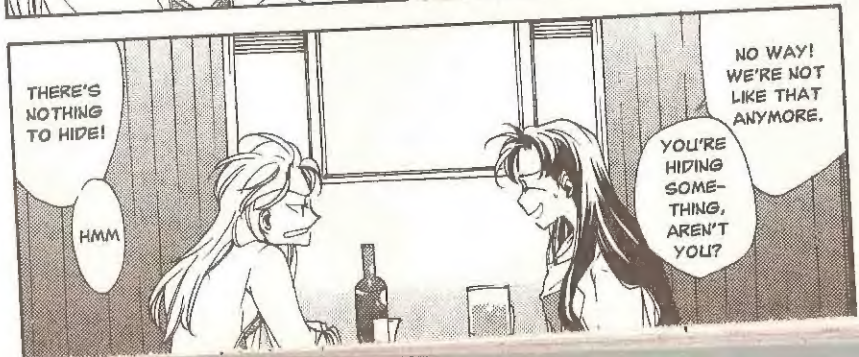
HOW DID YOU KNOW?!
KAJI WORKS FOR THEM TOO, RIGHT?

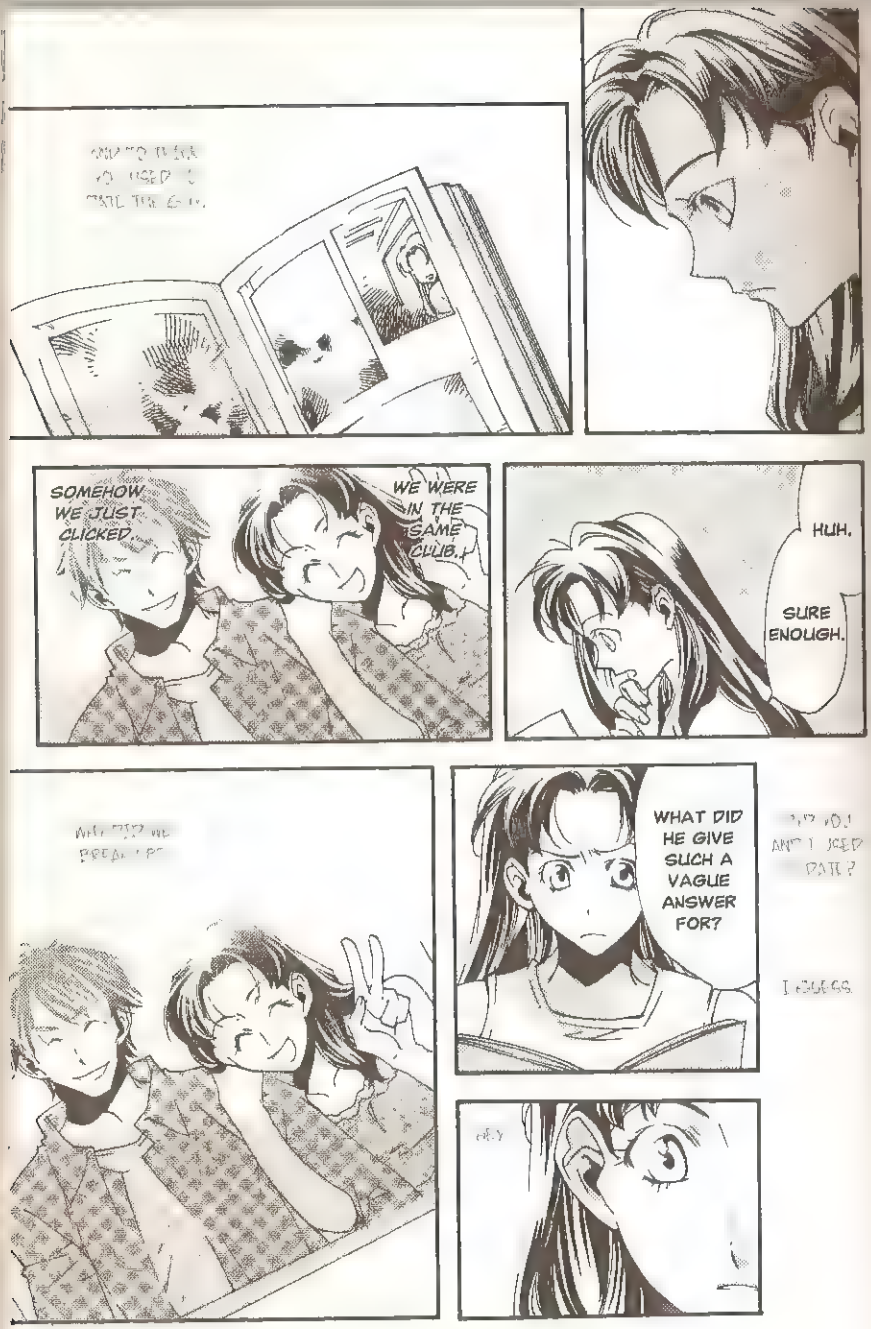
I GUESS.
YOUR DREAM JOB CAN MAKE YOU HAPPIER THAN GETTING MARRIED.


THEY SAY IT WAS TO FOLLOW YOU.
EVEN THOUGH YOU GUYS DIDN'T LOOK THAT SERIOUS.
I MEAN, HE GOT INTO GRAD SCHOOL BUT QUIT HIS FIRST YEAR.
EVERYONE WAS TALKING ABOUT IT!

ARE YOU GETTING MARRIED?
SO WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU GUYS?


UH, THAT'S NOT QUITE RIGHT.
I THINK.
YOU ARE SO LUCKY!

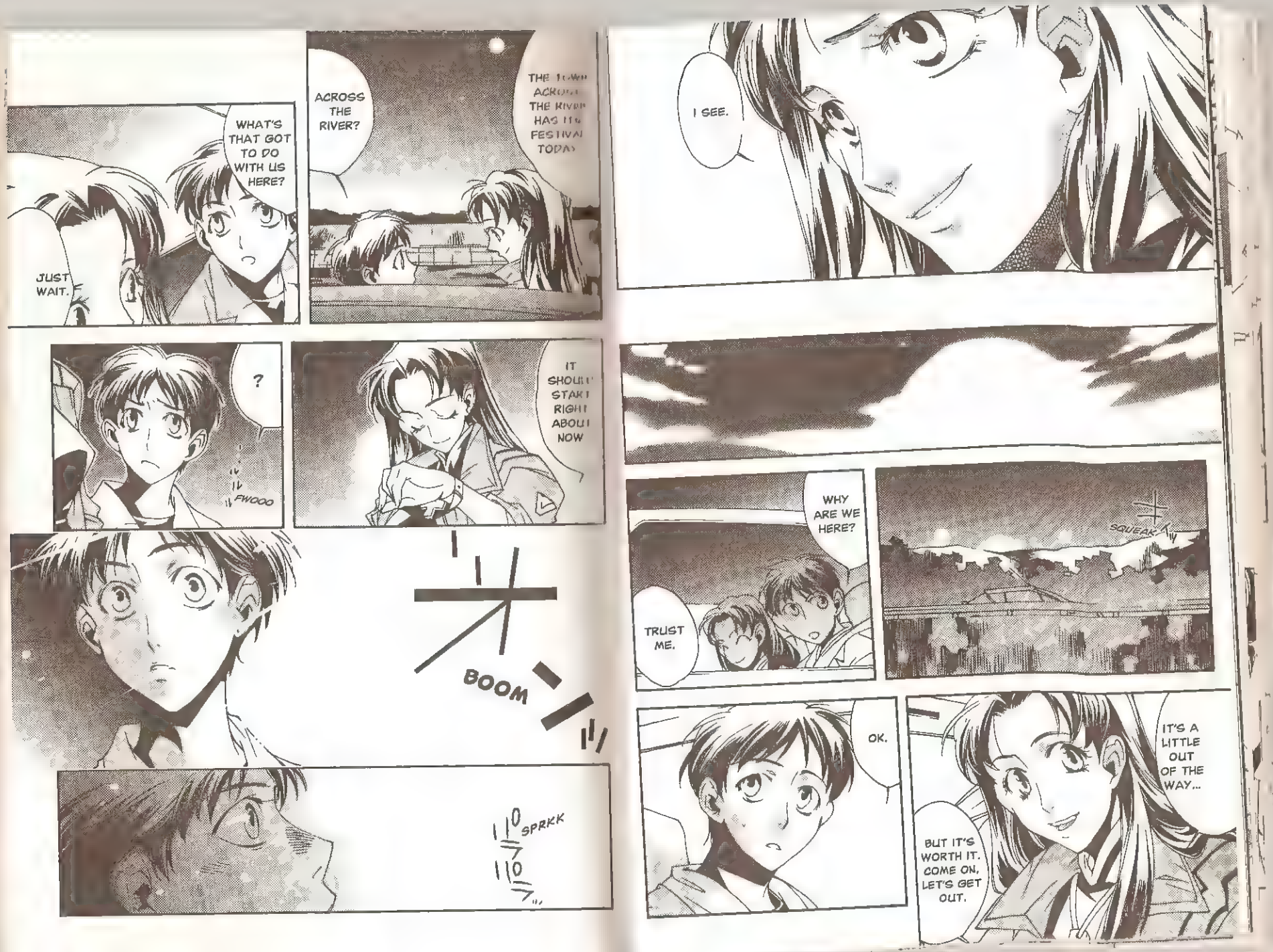

THERE'S NOTHING TO HIDE!
HMM
YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING, AREN'T YOU?
NO WAY! WE'RE NOT LIKE THAT ANYMORE.


SOMEHOW WE JUST CLICKED.
WE WERE IN THE SAME CLUB.
HUH.
SURE ENOUGH.
WHAT DID HE GIVE SUCH A VAGUE ANSWER FOR?

WHERE IS IT?!
I DON'T REMEMBER THROWING IT AWAY.
IS IT STILL PACKED UP?
HMM, WHERE DID I PUT IT?
CLNK
THIS TAKES ME BACK.
AH, HERE WE GO.
I HAVEN'T LOOKED AT THIS SINCE I MOVED HERE.
FLIP

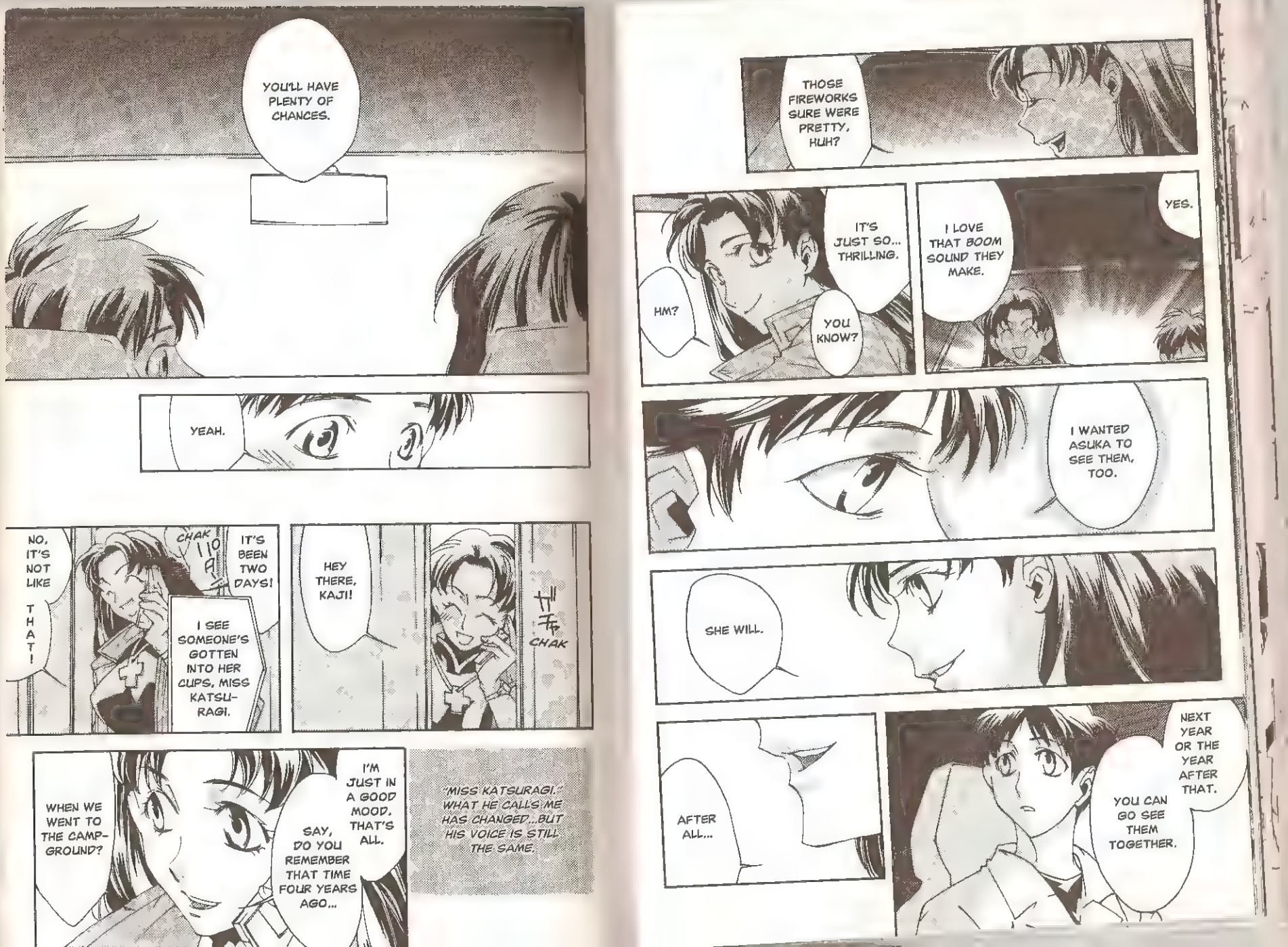
BOOM
BOOM

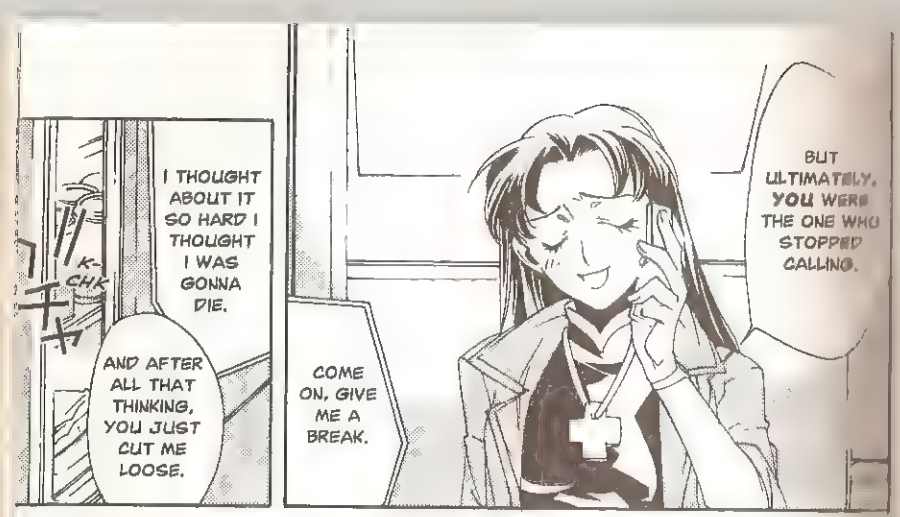
CHAK
SLAM
IN THE CAR.
MOVE.
YES, MA'AM.
TELL ME SOME-THING, SHINJI.
SLAM
YOU FEEL BETTER NOW?
YES. BUT WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN.
FWMM
SO. THE PROBLEM CHILD RETURNS.
.....
I'M VERY SOR-RY.

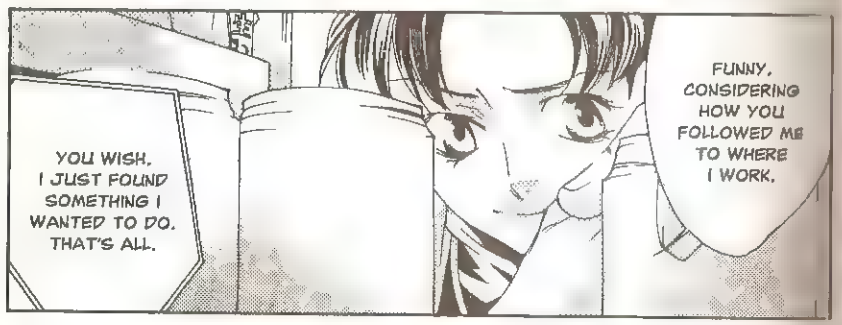

WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH US HERE?
JUST WAIT.
ACROSS THE RIVER?
THE TOWN ACROSS THE RIVER HAS ITS FESTIVAL TODAY
?
FWOOO
IT SHOULD START RIGHT ABOUT NOW
BOOM
SPRKK
I SEE.
WHY ARE WE HERE?
TRUST ME.
SQUEAK
OK.
IT'S A LITTLE OUT OF THE WAY...
BUT IT'S WORTH IT. COME ON, LET'S GET OUT.

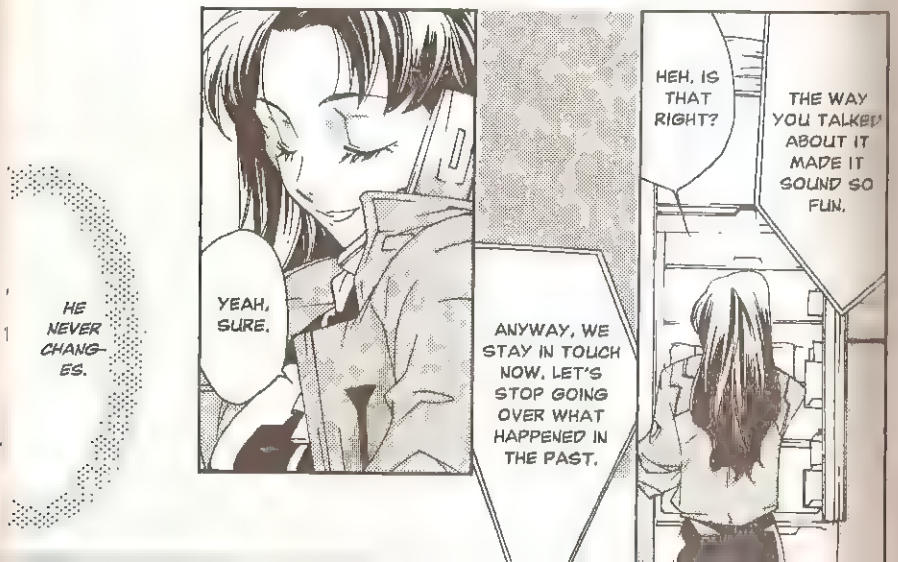
THERE'S A CAMP-GROUND NOT FAR FROM HERE.
I CAME HERE WITH THE OUTDOOR CLUB IN COL-LEGE.
THEY DO THEM EVERY YEAR.
THEY HAD FIREWORKS BACK THEN, TOO.
THEY'RE SO PRETTY.
BOOM
FIRE-WORKS!
BOOM
PAPAP
TWEO

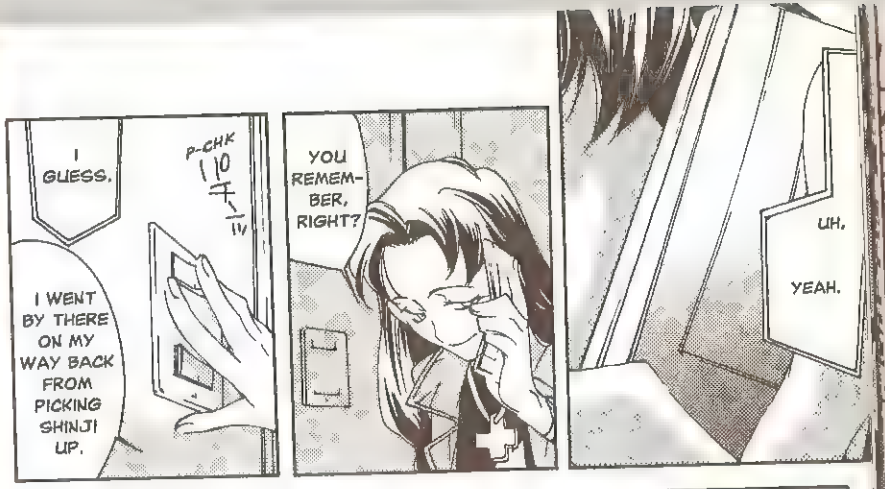
BOOM
BOOM
POP
POP


YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY OF CHANCES.
YEAH.
NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
CHAK
IT'S BEEN TWO DAYS!
I SEE SOMEONE'S GOTTEN INTO HER CUPS, MISS KATSURAGI.
HEY THERE, KAJI!
CHAK
WHEN WE WENT TO THE CAMP-GROUND?
SAY, DO YOU REMEMBER THAT TIME FOUR YEARS AGO...
I'M JUST IN A GOOD MOOD. THAT'S ALL.
"MISS KATSURAGI." WHAT HE CALLS ME HAS CHANGED...BUT HIS VOICE IS STILL THE SAME.
THOSE FIREWORKS SURE WERE PRETTY, HUH?
HM?
IT'S JUST SO... THRILLING.
YOU KNOW?
I LOVE THAT BOOM SOUND THEY MAKE.
YES.
I WANTED ASUKA TO SEE THEM, TOO.
SHE WILL.
AFTER ALL...
YOU CAN GO SEE THEM TOGETHER.
NEXT YEAR OR THE YEAR AFTER THAT.


I THOUGHT ABOUT IT SO HARD I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA DIE.
K-CHK
AND AFTER ALL THAT THINKING, YOU JUST CUT ME LOOSE.
COME ON, GIVE ME A BREAK.
BUT ULTIMATELY, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO STOPPED CALLING.


YOU WISH. I JUST FOUND SOMETHING I WANTED TO DO. THAT'S ALL.
FUNNY, CONSIDERING HOW YOU FOLLOWED ME TO WHERE I WORK.

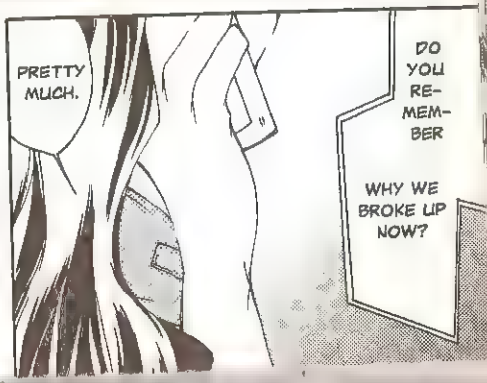

HE NEVER CHANGES.
YEAH, SURE.
ANYWAY, WE STAY IN TOUCH NOW. LET'S STOP GOING OVER WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST.
HEH. IS THAT RIGHT?
THE WAY YOU TALKED ABOUT IT MADE IT SOUND SO FUN.


I GUESS.
P-CHK
I WENT BY THERE ON MY WAY BACK FROM PICKING SHINJI UP.
YOU REMEMBER, RIGHT?
UH.
YEAH.

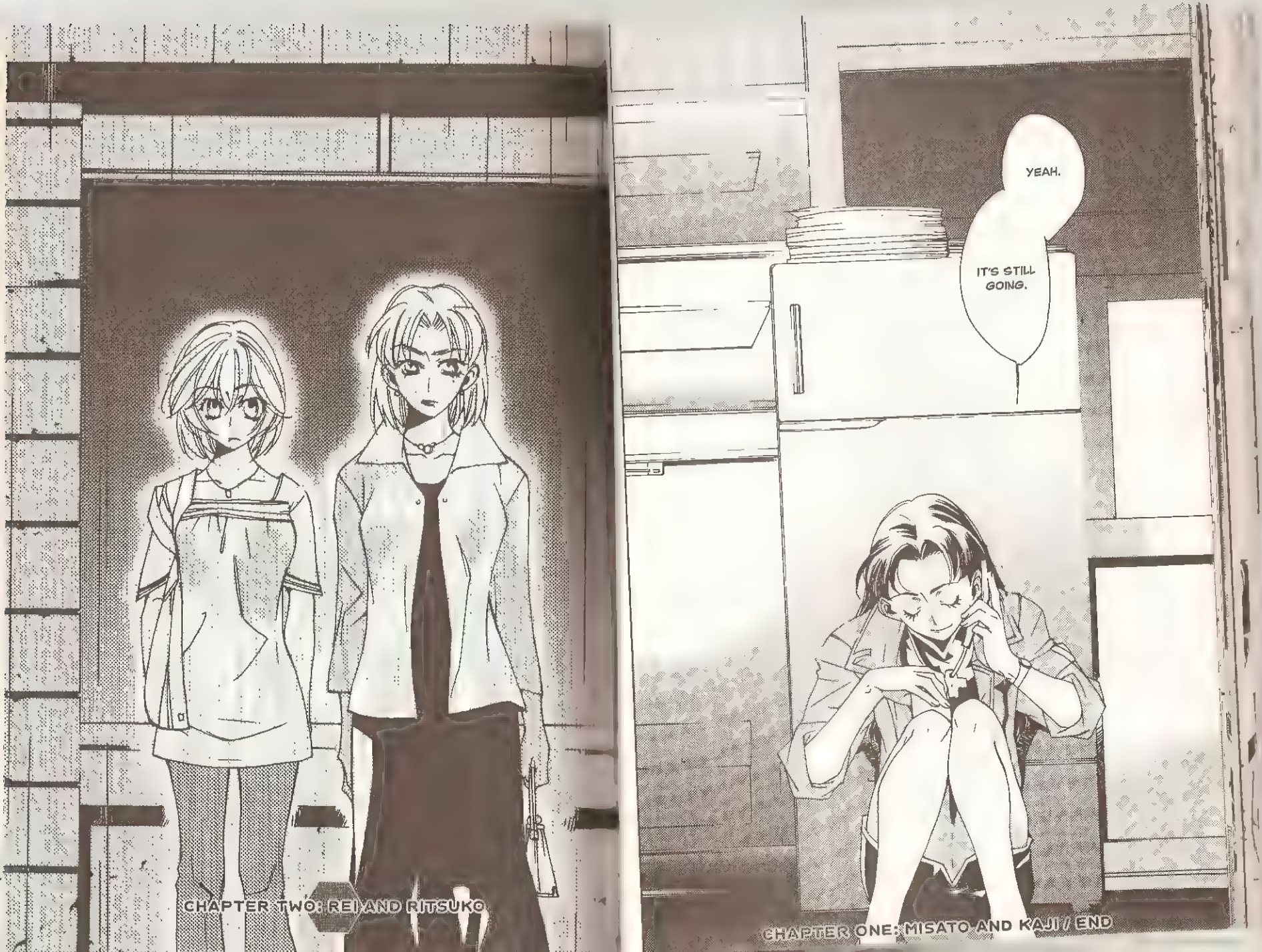
THERE WERE FIREWORKS JUST LIKE THERE WERE FOUR YEARS AGO.

AH.

Hup
COWARD.
YOU'RE ALL, "LET'S TRY TO MAKE IT WORK..."


PRETTY MUCH.
DO YOU REMEMBER WHY WE BROKE UP NOW?

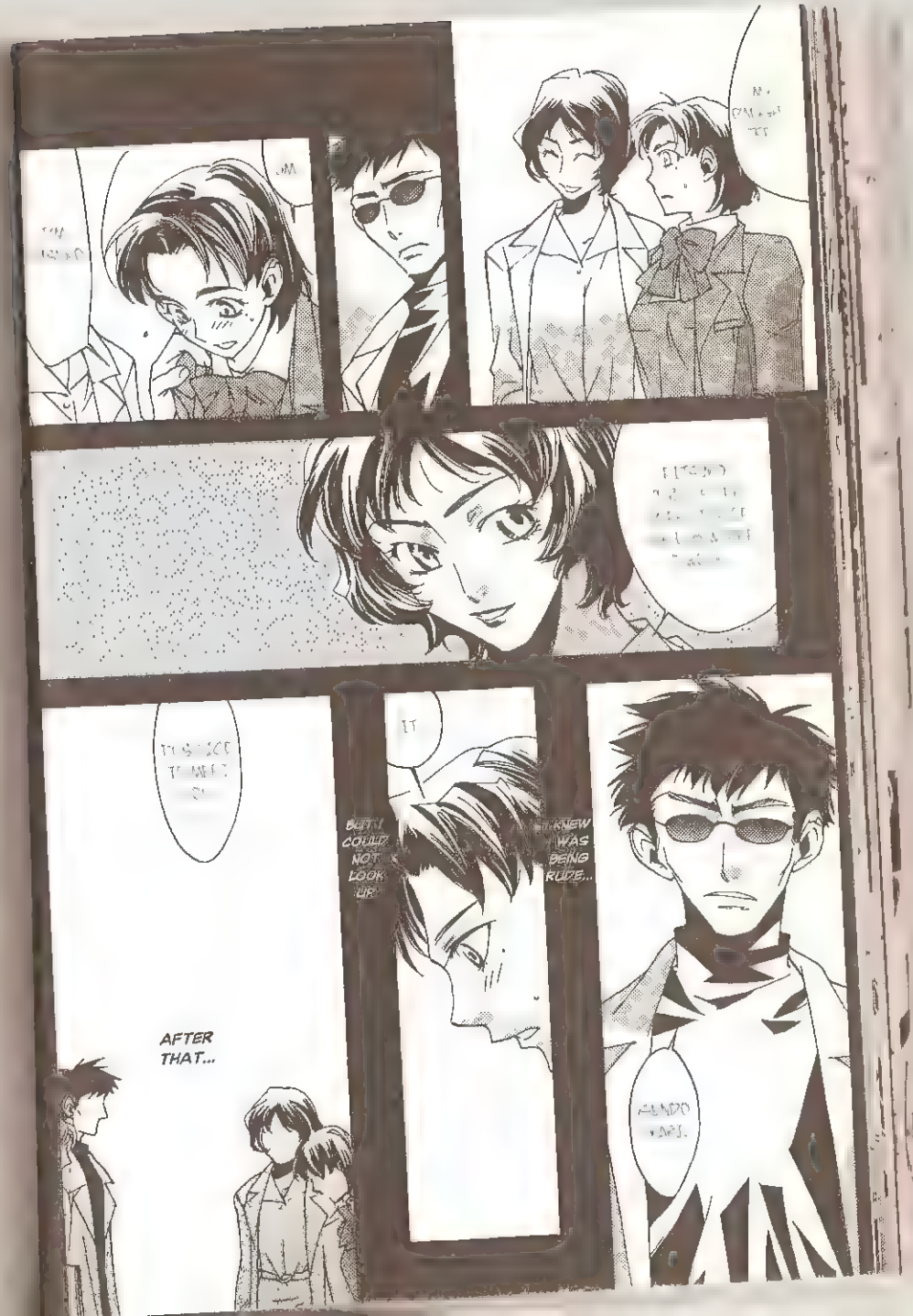
HE NEVER CHANGES.
YOU'RE SMILING RIGHT NOW, AREN'T YOU?
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE NEXT YEAR.
I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE GETTING RID OF EACH OTHER ANYTIME SOON.
AND NEITHER DO I.
NEXT TIME.
LOOKS LIKE IT'S KEPT ON GOING, HUH?
WELL...
MAYBE SOME-DAY.
HEY, KAJI?
HM?
I'M GOING TO TAKE A GUESS...
I DON'T KNOW. THEY'RE SORT OF BAD LUCK.
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GO SEE THOSE FIREWORKS NEXT YEAR?
P-SHH

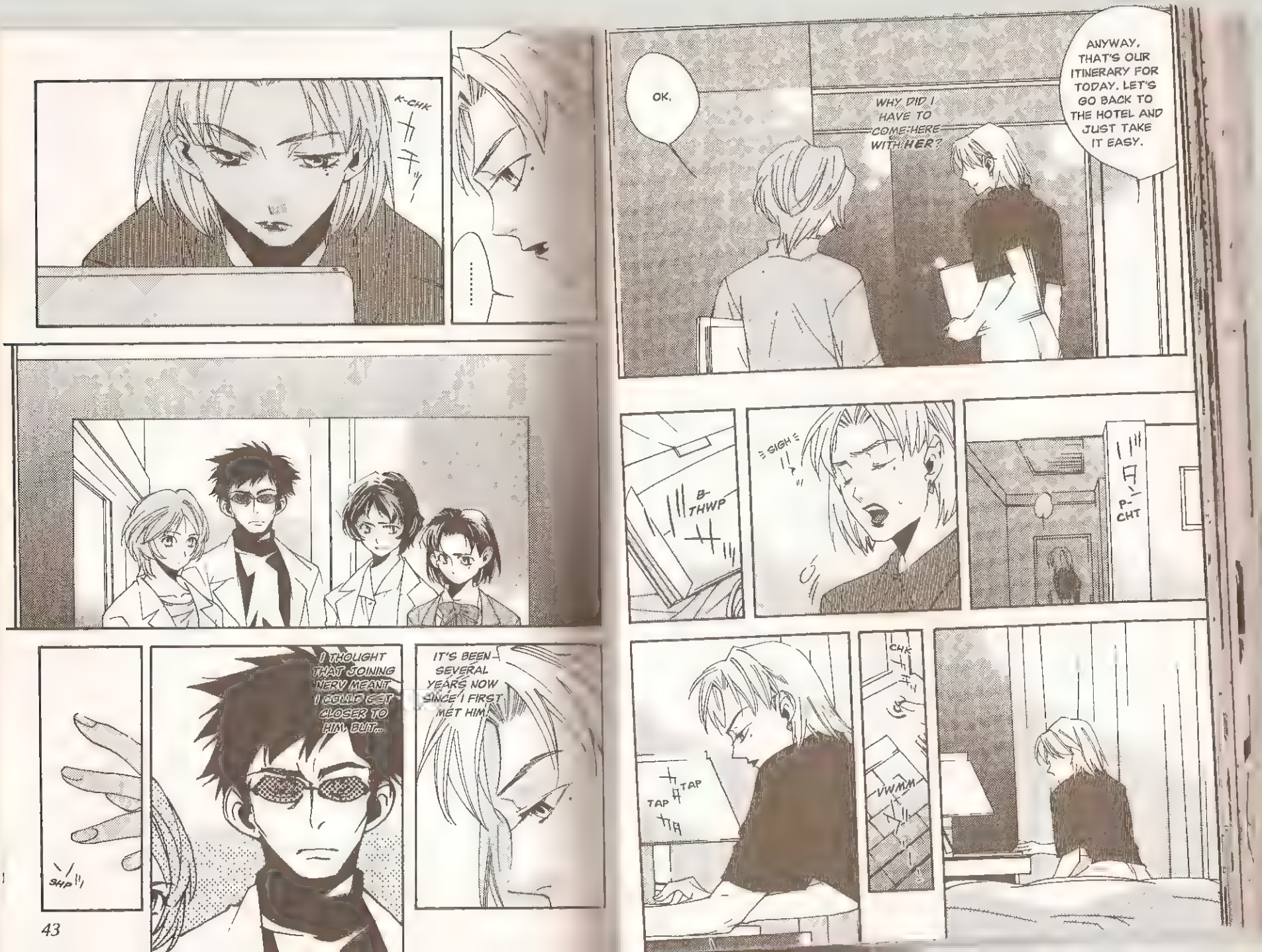

YEAH.
IT'S STILL GOING.
CHAPTER ONE: MISATO AND KAJI / END
CHAPTER TWO: REI AND RITSUKO

RIT-SUKO.
YOU CER-TAINLY TOOK YOUR TIME.
Ah!
B-THMP
OH.
B-THMP
I TOLD HER SHE SHOULDN'T WEAR IT. IT'S JUST TACKY.
THAT LIPSTICK.
IT'S EMBARRASSING.
THAT WOMAN HE'S WITH LOOKS YOUNGER THAN HER... AND SHE'S WEARING A LOT LESS MAKEUP.
WHAT'S GOT HER LAUGHING AND LOOKING SO HAPPY?
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?

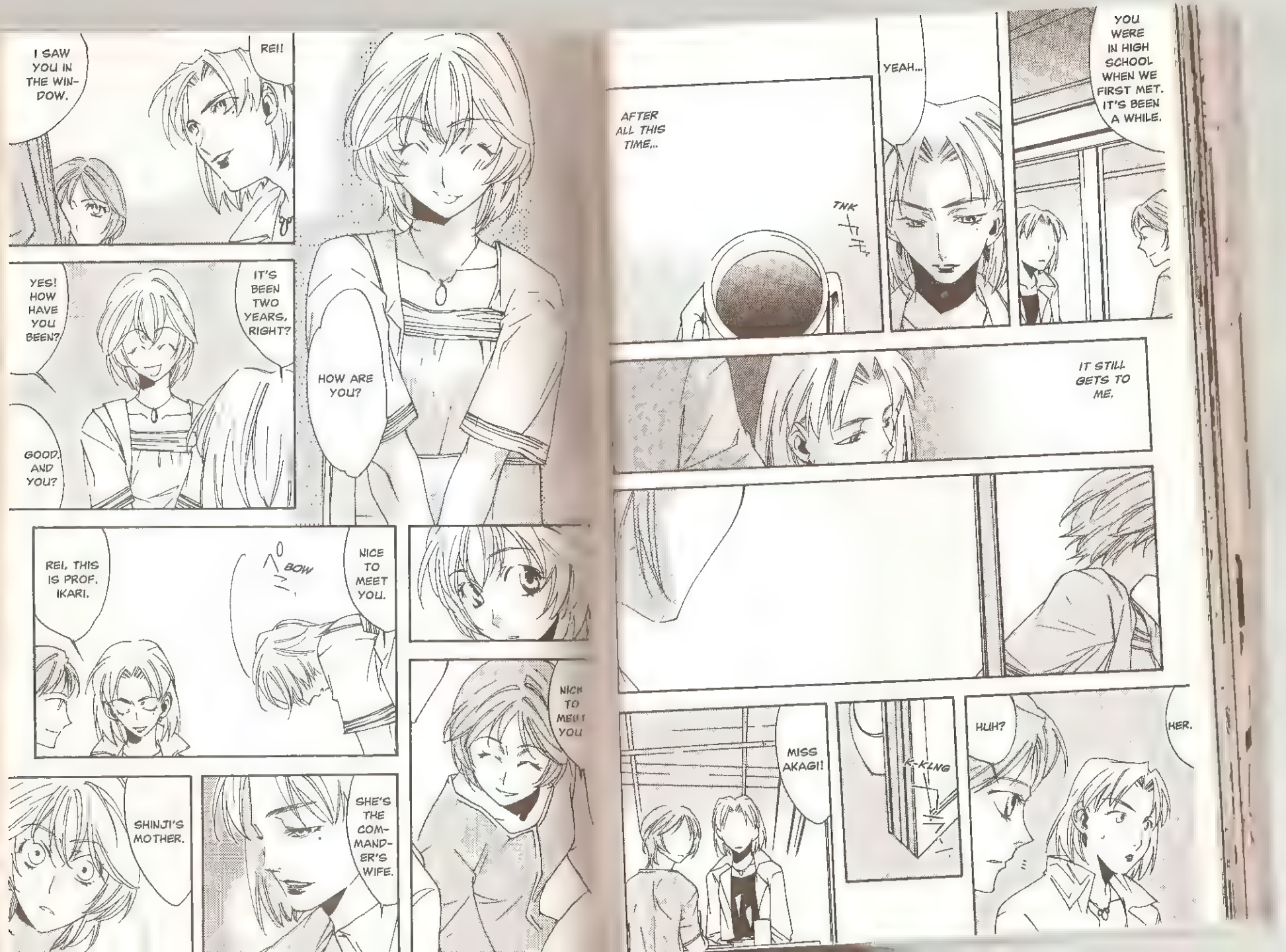
WHENEVER I WAS AROUND HIM, I'D GET SO NERVOUS THAT IT WAS LIKE THE MUSCLES IN MY BACK HAD SEIZED UP.

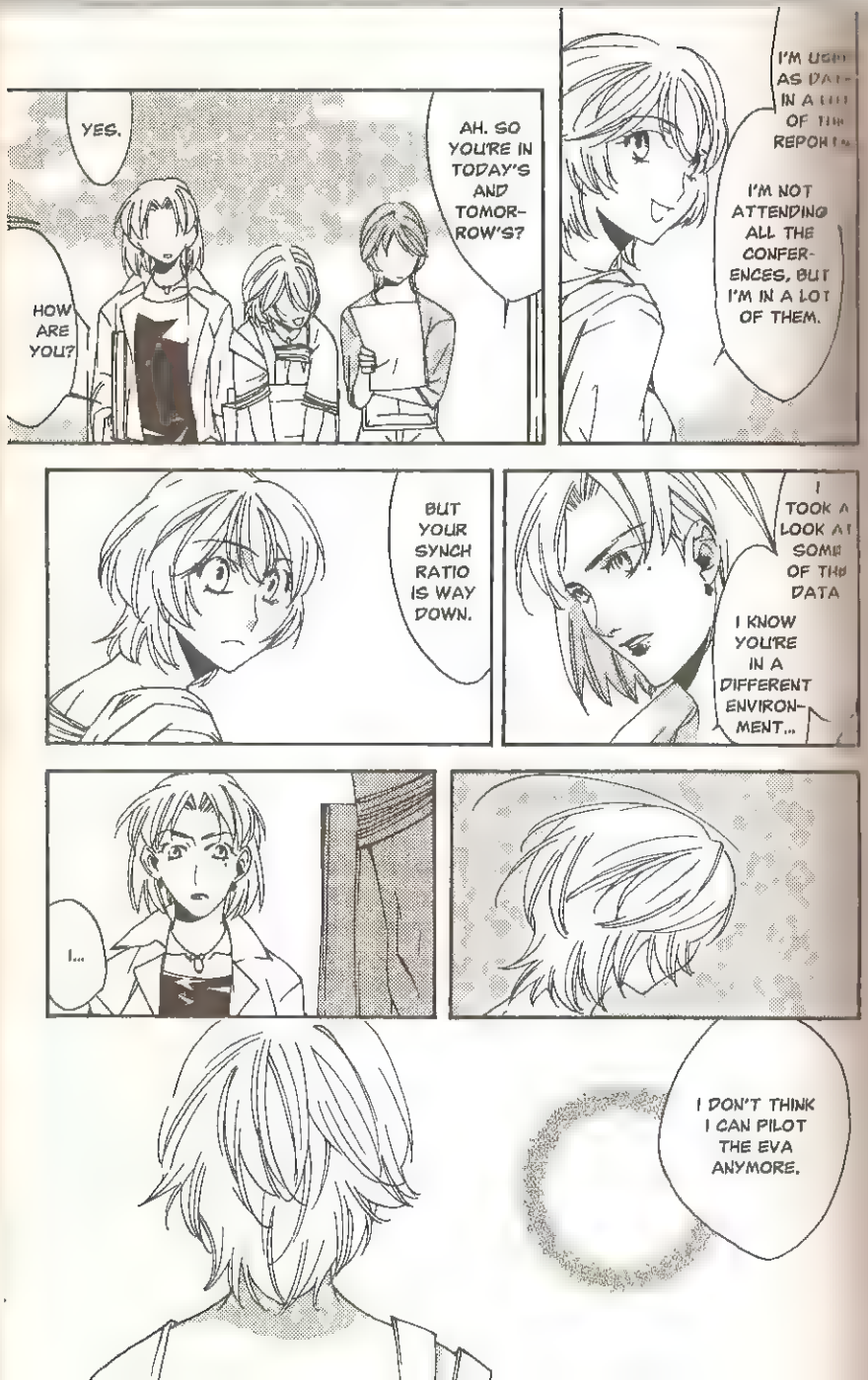
IT'S BEING HELD AT A RATHER HOT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
HUH?
THE SYM-POSIUM.
AH. YES.
PRO-FESSOR AKAGI?
I'M SO DEPRESSED.
=SIGH=
CHK
CHK
IT CAN'T BE HELPED. WE ALL TAKE TURNS HOSTING THE EVENT.
TRUE.
LOS ANGELES IS SO HOT.
I WISH THEY WOULD AT LEAST HAVE IT IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.

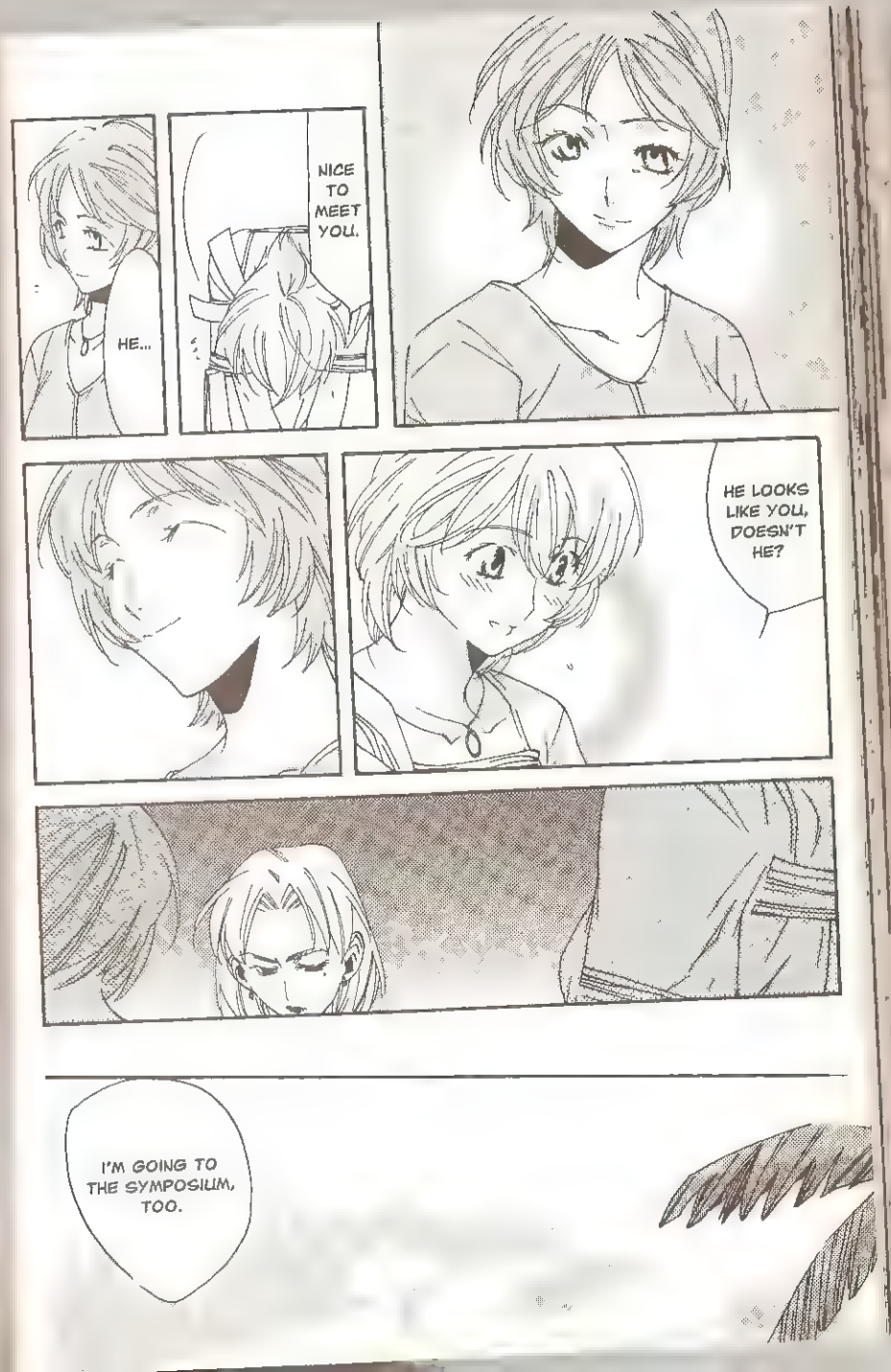



K-CHK
.....
I THOUGHT THAT JOINING NERV MEANT I COULD GET CLOSER TO HIM, BUT...
SHD
IT'S BEEN SEVERAL YEARS NOW SINCE I FIRST MET HIM.
OK.
WHY DID I HAVE TO COME HERE WITH HER?
ANYWAY, THAT'S OUR ITINERARY FOR TODAY. LET'S GO BACK TO THE HOTEL AND JUST TAKE IT EASY.
B-THWP
=SIGH=
P-CHT
TAP TAP TAP
CHK
VWMM

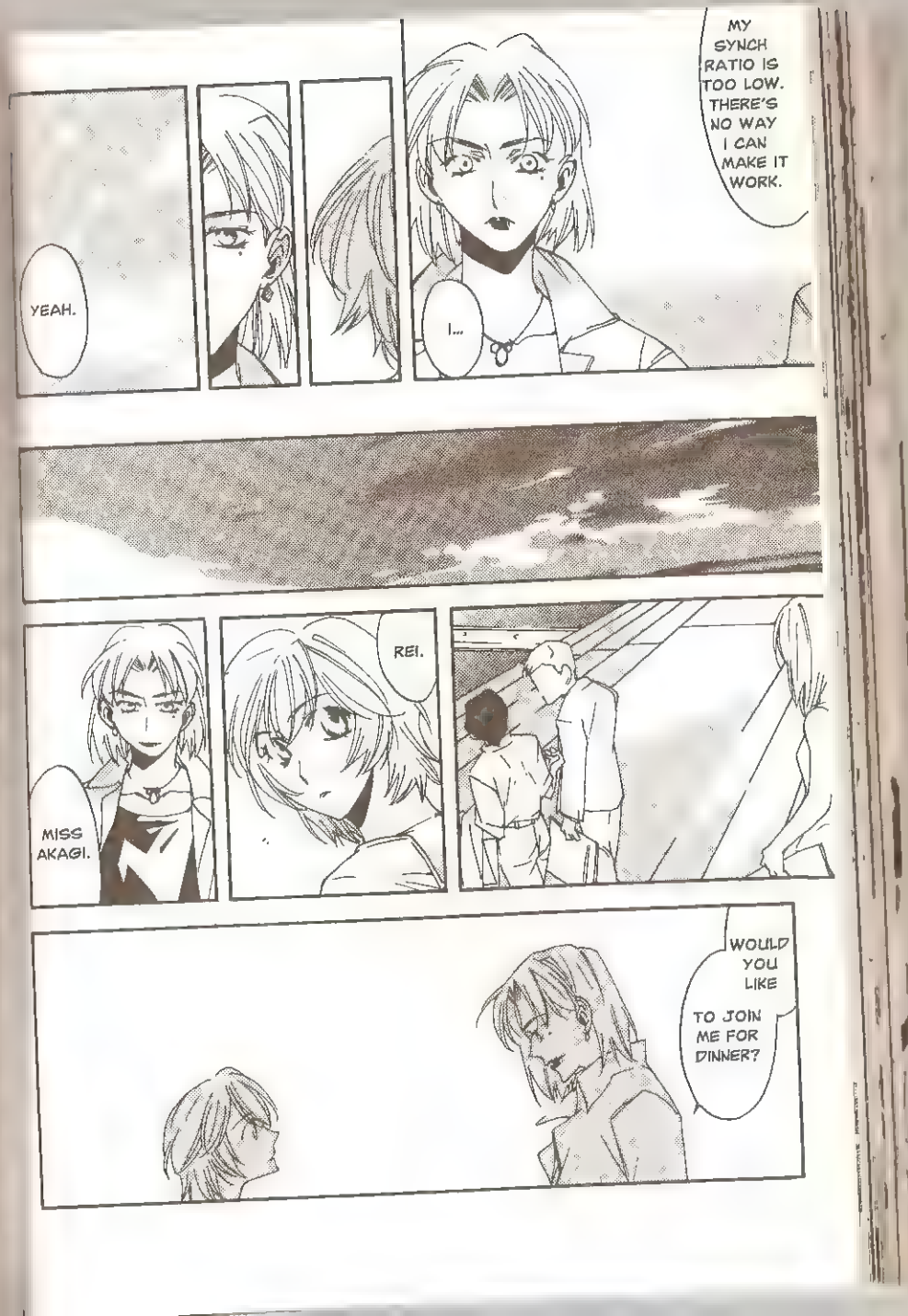
OUR AFTERNOON CONFERENCE IS AT 1:25.
HOW LONG WILL THIS KEEP GOING ON?
RITSUKO-CHAN...
HUH?
SIGH
CLNK
WE HAVE AN HOUR AND 13 MINUTES.
IT TAKES ABOUT 20 MINUTES BY CAR TO GET TO CSULA*, SO IF WE LEAVE AN HOUR AHEAD OF TIME, WE SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEMS.
* CAL FORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES
YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M SORRY.
I...I'M IN MY 30s, YOU KNOW. THAT'S A LITTLE OLD FOR -CHAN.
THIS IS THE MOST TIME WE'VE EVER SPENT WITH EACH OTHER, ISN'T IT?
YUI IKARI.
TNK
WORKING FROM THE SHADOWS...


I SAW YOU IN THE WINDOW.
REI!
YES! HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS, RIGHT?
GOOD. AND YOU?
HOW ARE YOU?
REI, THIS IS PROF. IKARI.
BOW
NICE TO MEET YOU.
SHINJI'S MOTHER.
SHE'S THE COMMANDER'S WIFE.
NICE TO MEET YOU
AFTER ALL THIS TIME...
TNK
YEAH...
YOU WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL WHEN WE FIRST MET. IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
IT STILL GETS TO ME.
MISS AKAGI!
K-KLNG
HUH?
HER.

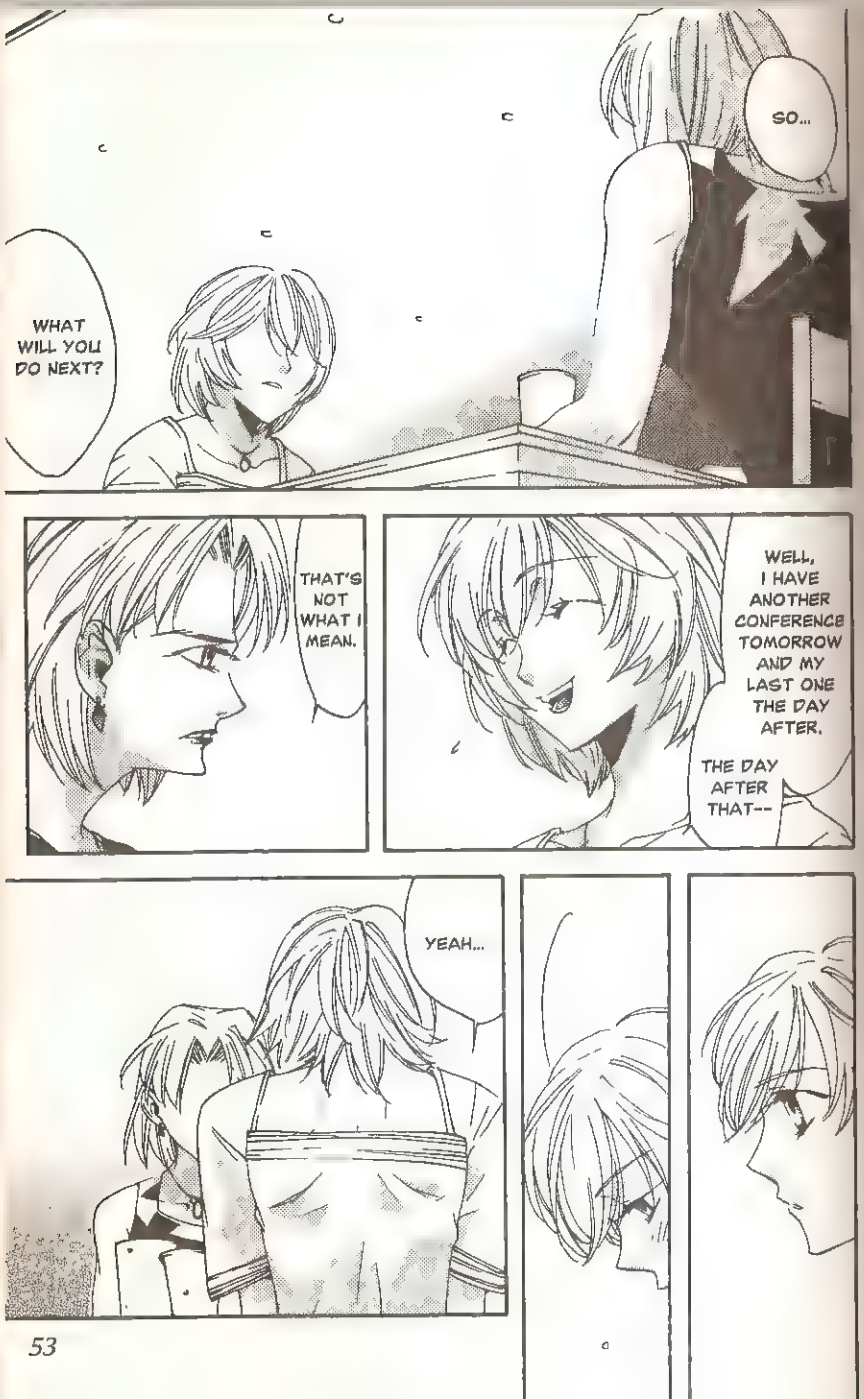

AH. SO YOU'RE IN TODAY'S AND TOMOR-ROW'S?
YES.
HOW ARE YOU?
I'M NOT ATTENDING ALL THE CONFER-ENCES, BUT I'M IN A LOT OF THEM.
BUT YOUR SYNCH RATIO IS WAY DOWN.
I TOOK A LOOK AT SOME OF THE DATA
I KNOW YOU'RE IN A DIFFERENT ENVIRON-MENT...
I...
I DON'T THINK I CAN PILOT THE EVA ANYMORE.


NICE TO MEET YOU.
HE...
HE LOOKS LIKE YOU, DOESN'T HE?
I'M GOING TO THE SYMPOSIUM, TOO.

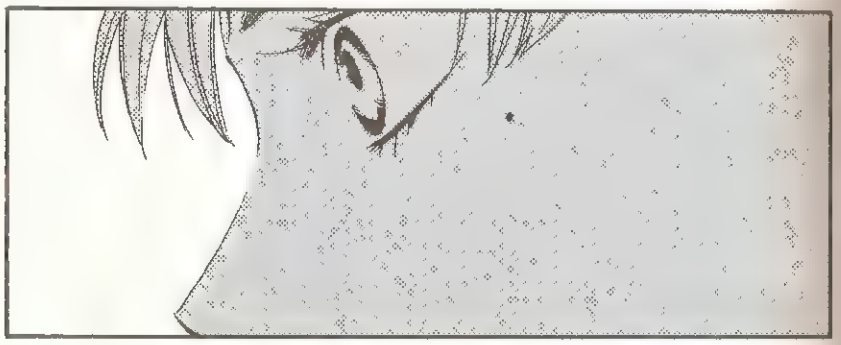
TONIGHT IS ON ME.
GET WHATEVER YOU LIKE.
YOU'RE STILL A TEENAGER. YOU HAVE TO LET US GROWNUPS LOOK GOOD SOME-TIMES.
PLEASE
YOU DON'T HAVE TO
I HAVE MONEY.
HM?
YOU'RE A LOT LESS DIFFICULT TO APP-ROACH...
THAN HOW I IMAG-INED.
EXCUSE ME, CAN WE ORDER NOW?
SURE.
UM, OK.


MY SYNCH RATIO IS TOO LOW. THERE'S NO WAY I CAN MAKE IT WORK.
YEAH.
I...
REI.
MISS AKAGI.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN ME FOR DINNER?

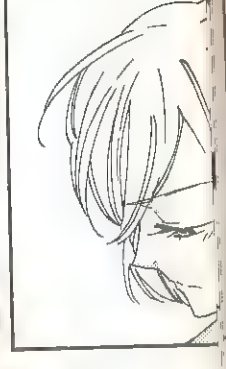
CHEERS
CLINK
REI.
YES?

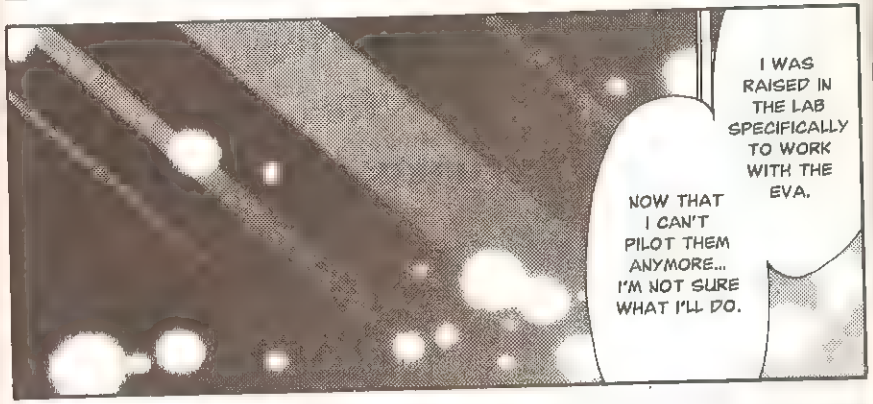

SO...
WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.
WELL, I HAVE ANOTHER CONFERENCE TOMORROW AND MY LAST ONE THE DAY AFTER.
THE DAY AFTER THAT--
YEAH...

WHAT...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?



I...




I WAS RAISED IN THE LAB SPECIFICALLY TO WORK WITH THE EVA.
NOW THAT I CAN'T PILOT THEM ANYMORE... I'M NOT SURE WHAT I'LL DO.

YOU CAN STILL BE ACTIVE IN--
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

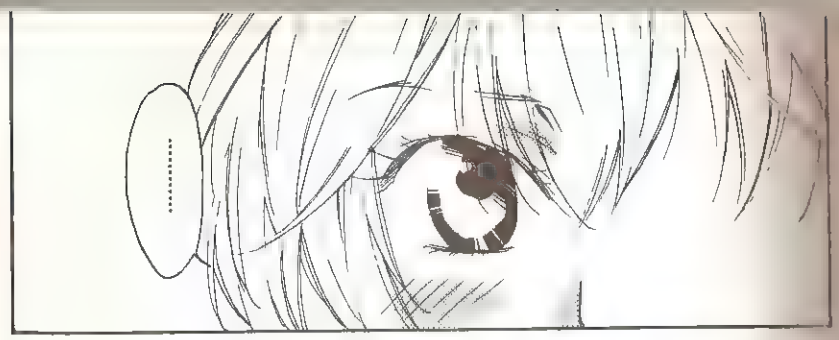
BUT JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN'T OPERATE THEM DOESN'T MEAN NERV'S GOING TO THROW YOU OUT THE DOOR.
RELAX.

YEAH.

THE FIGUEROA.
WHICH HOTEL ARE YOU STAY-ING AT?
OH. I'M AT THE MAR-RIOTT DOWN-TOWN.
I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT IT OUT HERE AND HOPE WE CAN GRAB A TAXI
OK.
WE CAN SHARE A CAB.
AH
THWMP.
SHHHH
SHHHH.

P-PT
PT
SHHHH
BUT IT WAS SO SUNNY THIS AFTERNOON.
IT'S RAINING?
OH
ME NEITHER.
JEEZ. I DIDN'T BRING AN UMBRELLA.

AND YOU DON'T WANT TO OPEN IT?
IT'S SORT OF MY GOOD-LUCK CHARM.
I'M AFRAID TO READ IT.
YIKES!
LOOK!
THAT'S WHAT HAP-PENS WHEN YOU SPACE OUT.
YOU HAVE TO HURRY OR THEY'LL GET WET.
OH, THANK YOU.
NO!
ARE YOU OK?
AIR MAIL...
IT HASN'T BEEN OPENED.
Shinji Ikari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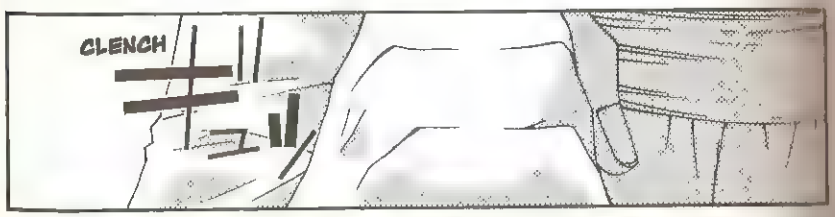
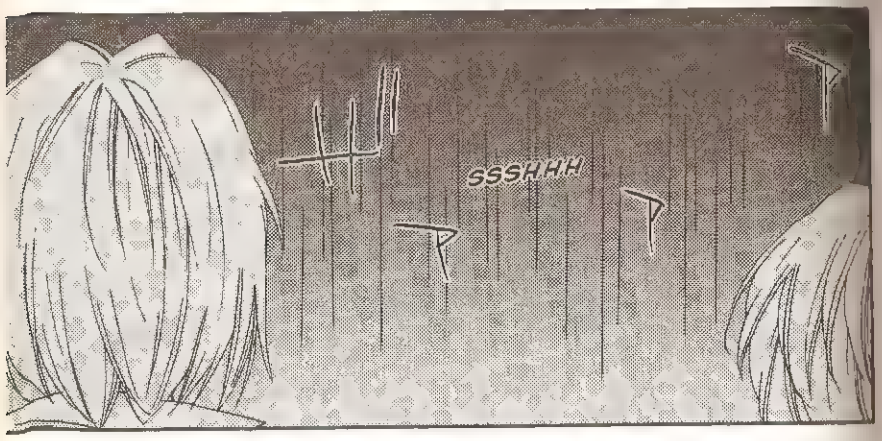
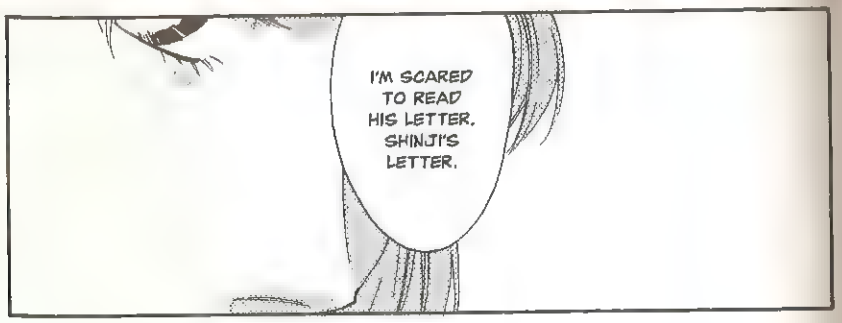
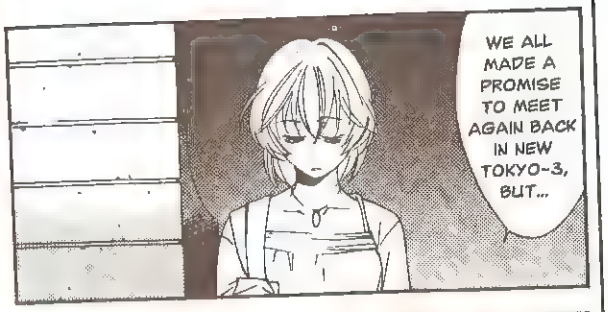
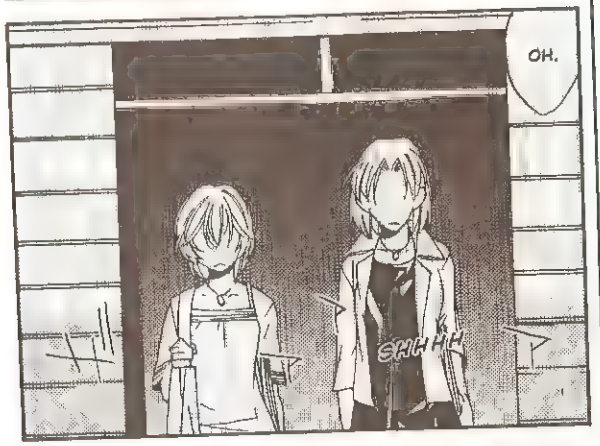

CLENCH

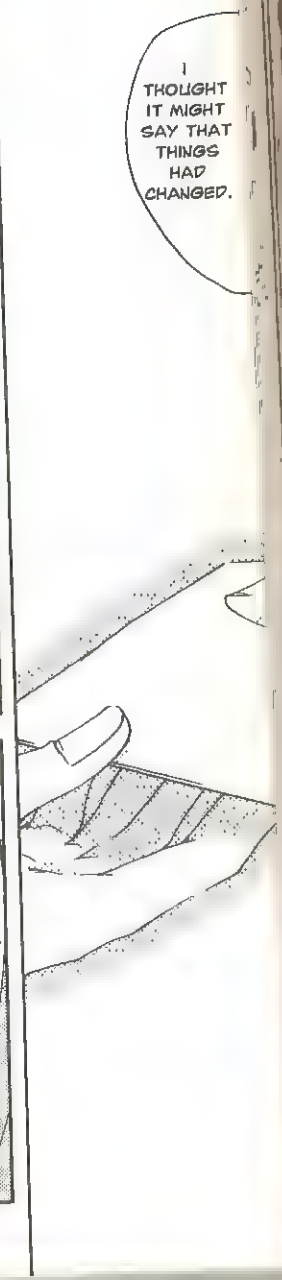

SSSHHH

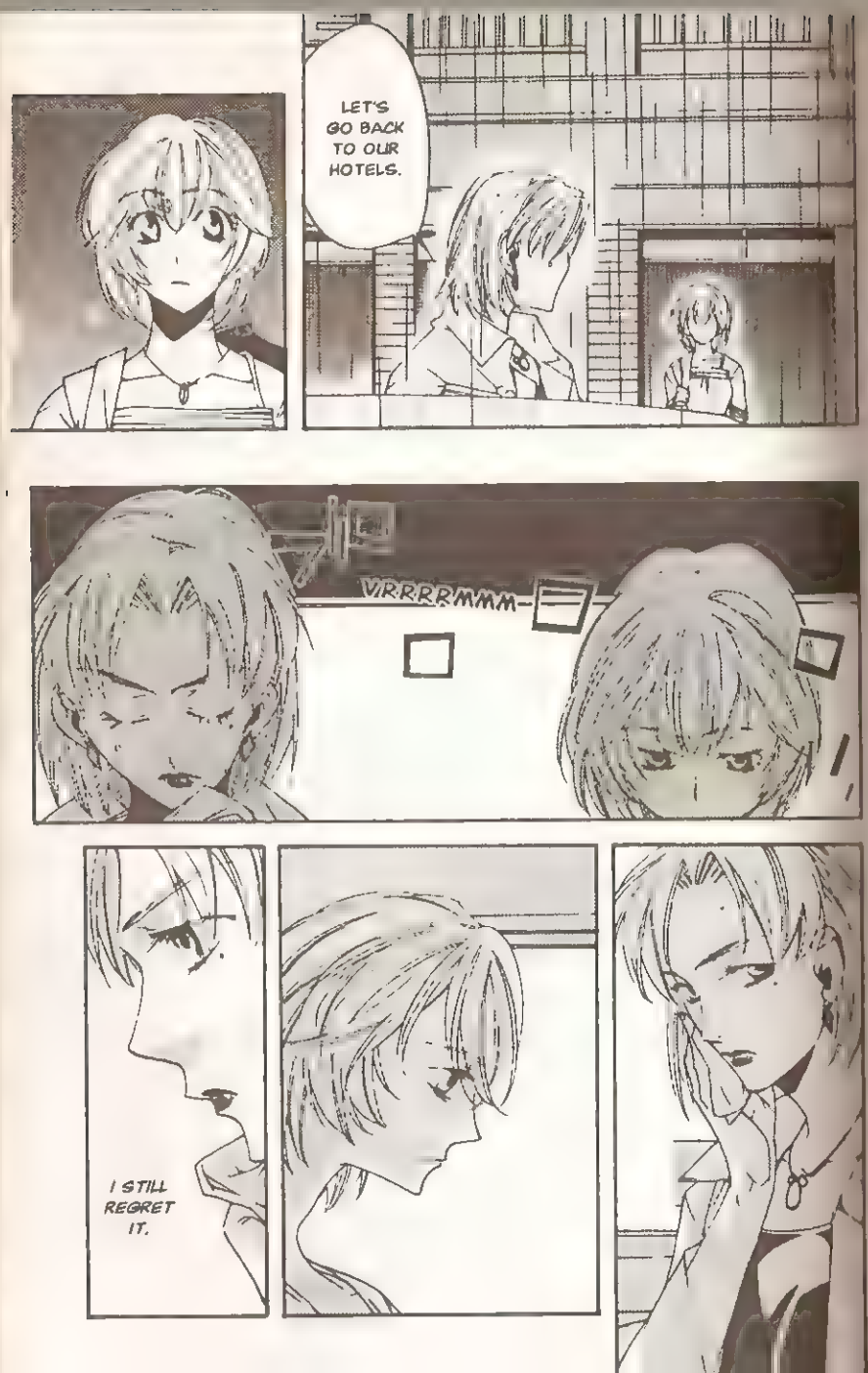

I'M SCARED TO READ HIS LETTER. SHINJI'S LETTER.

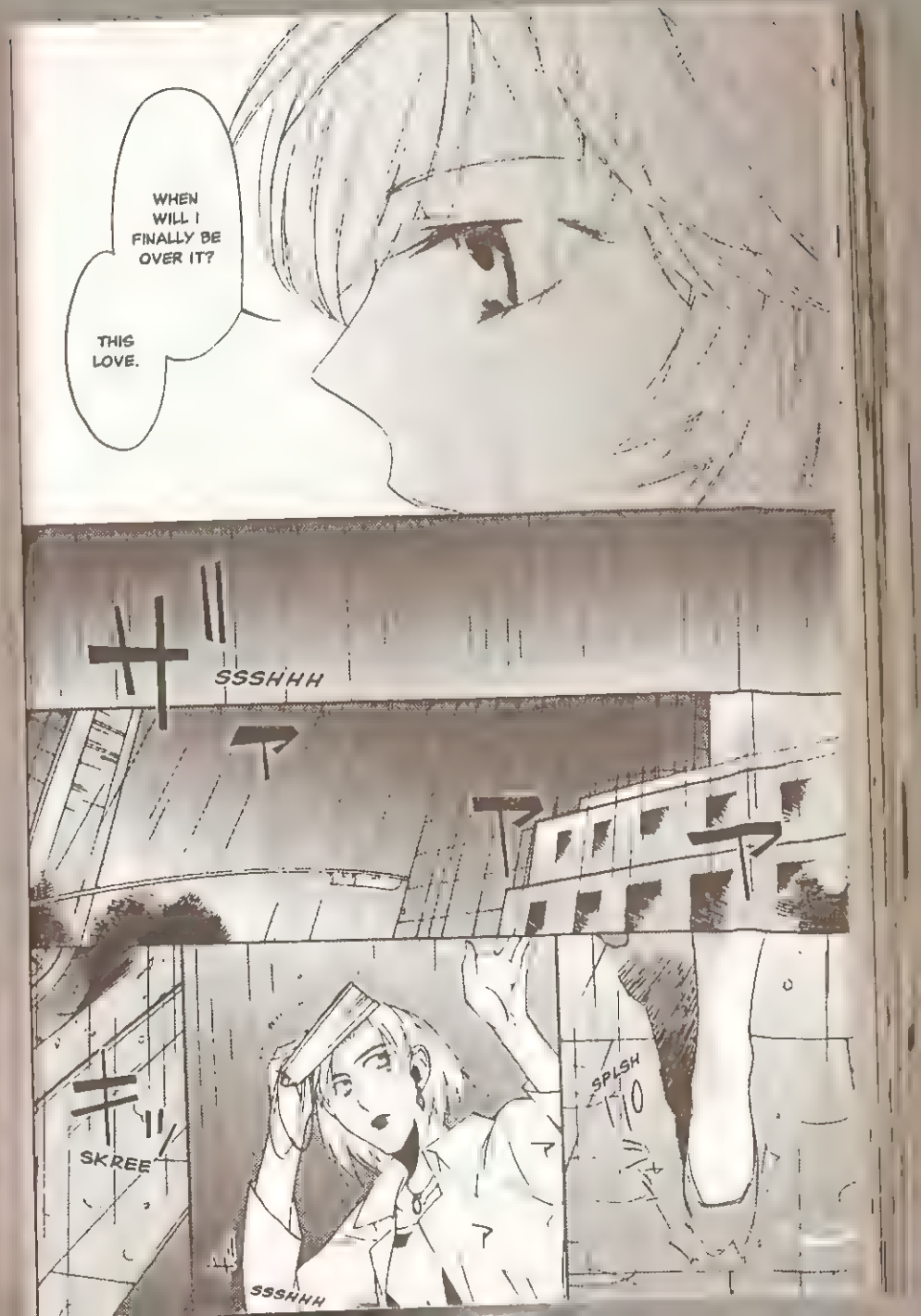

WE ALL MADE A PROMISE TO MEET AGAIN BACK IN NEW TOKYO-3, BUT...

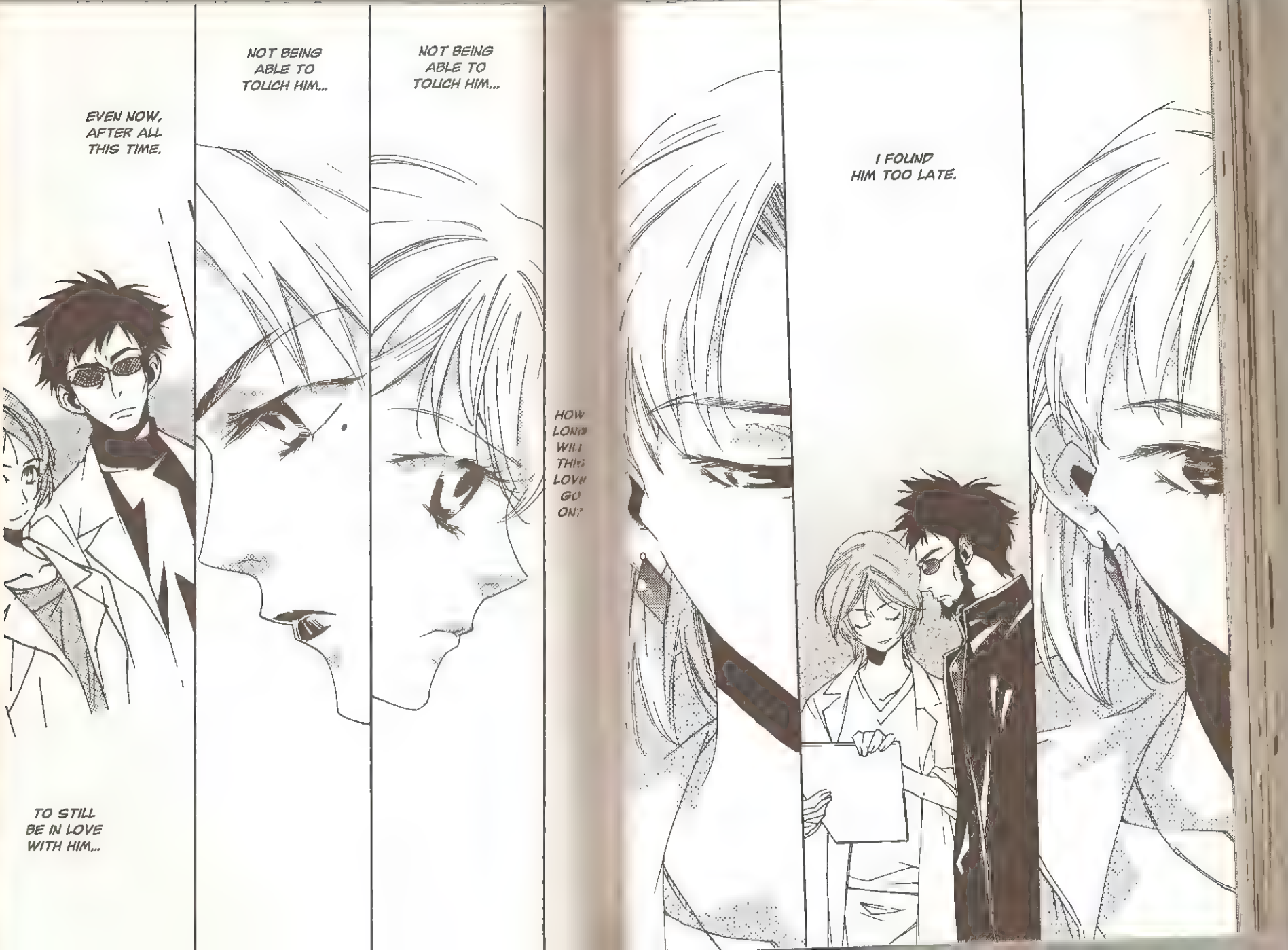

OH.
SHHHH

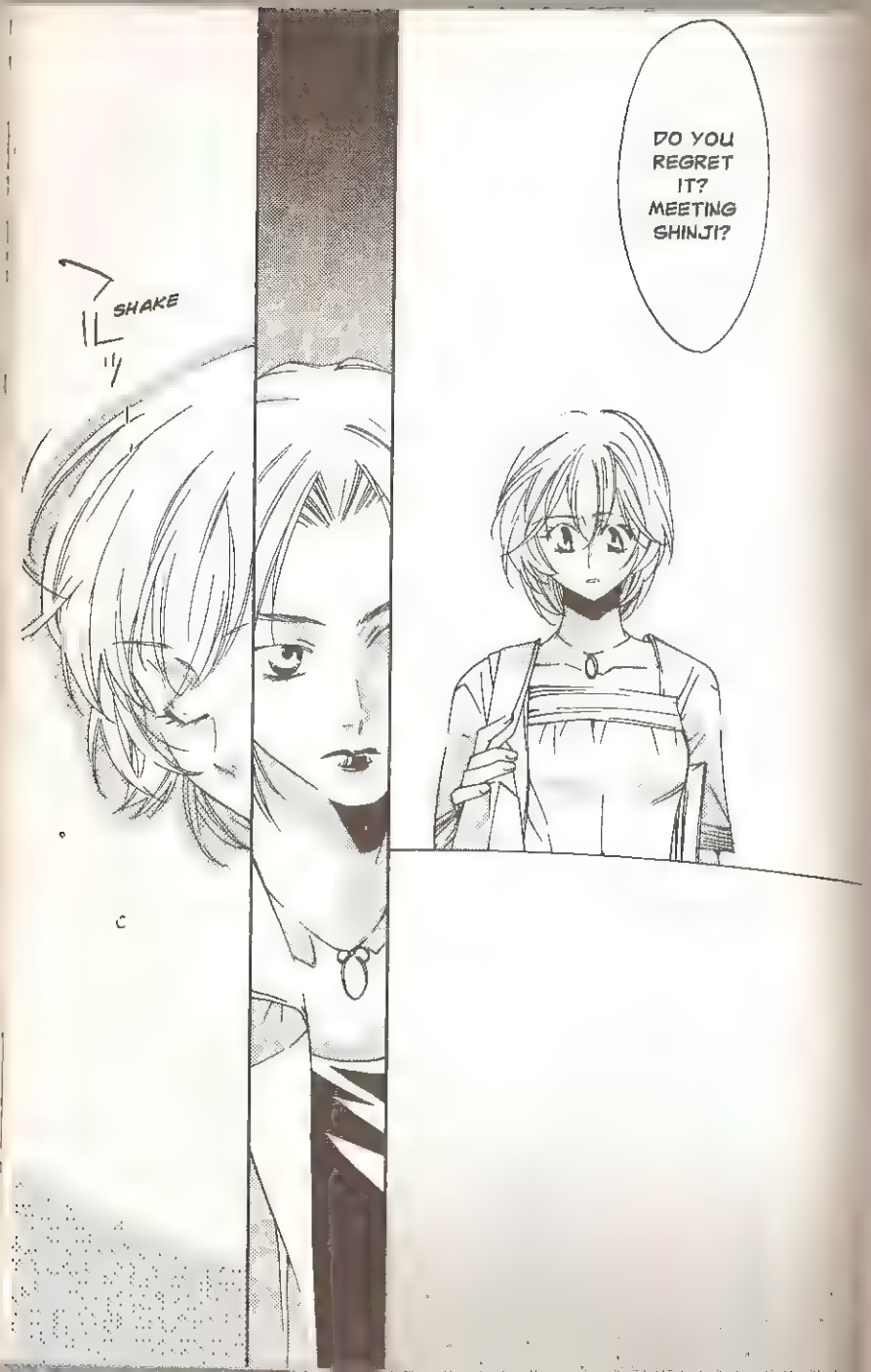
BUT IF YOU DON'T READ THAT, YOU'LL NEVER KNOW.
SSSHHHH
I...
I WONDER IF THEY ALL REMEMBER THAT PROMISE.

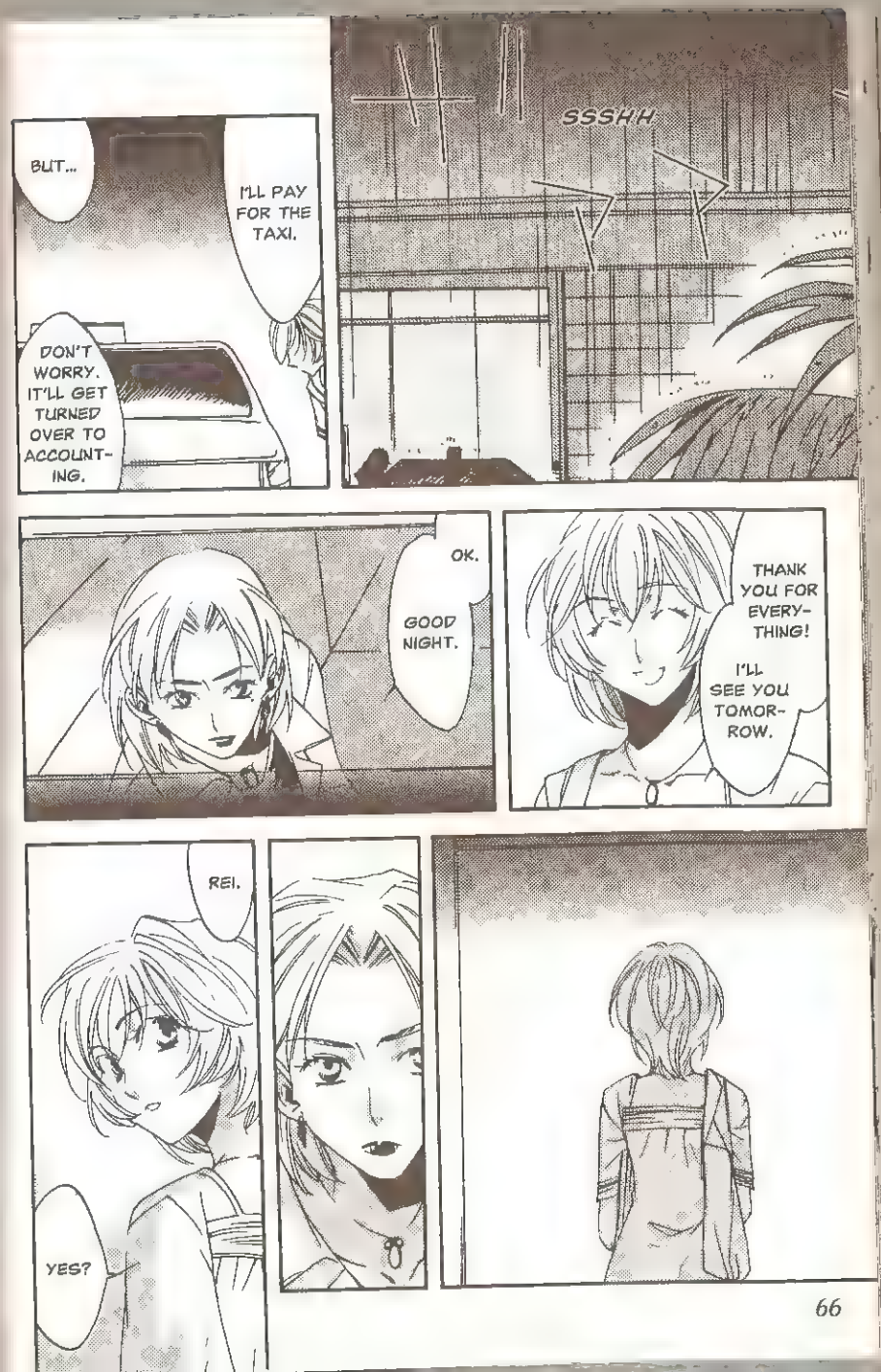

I THOUGHT IT MIGHT SAY THAT THINGS HAD CHANGED.

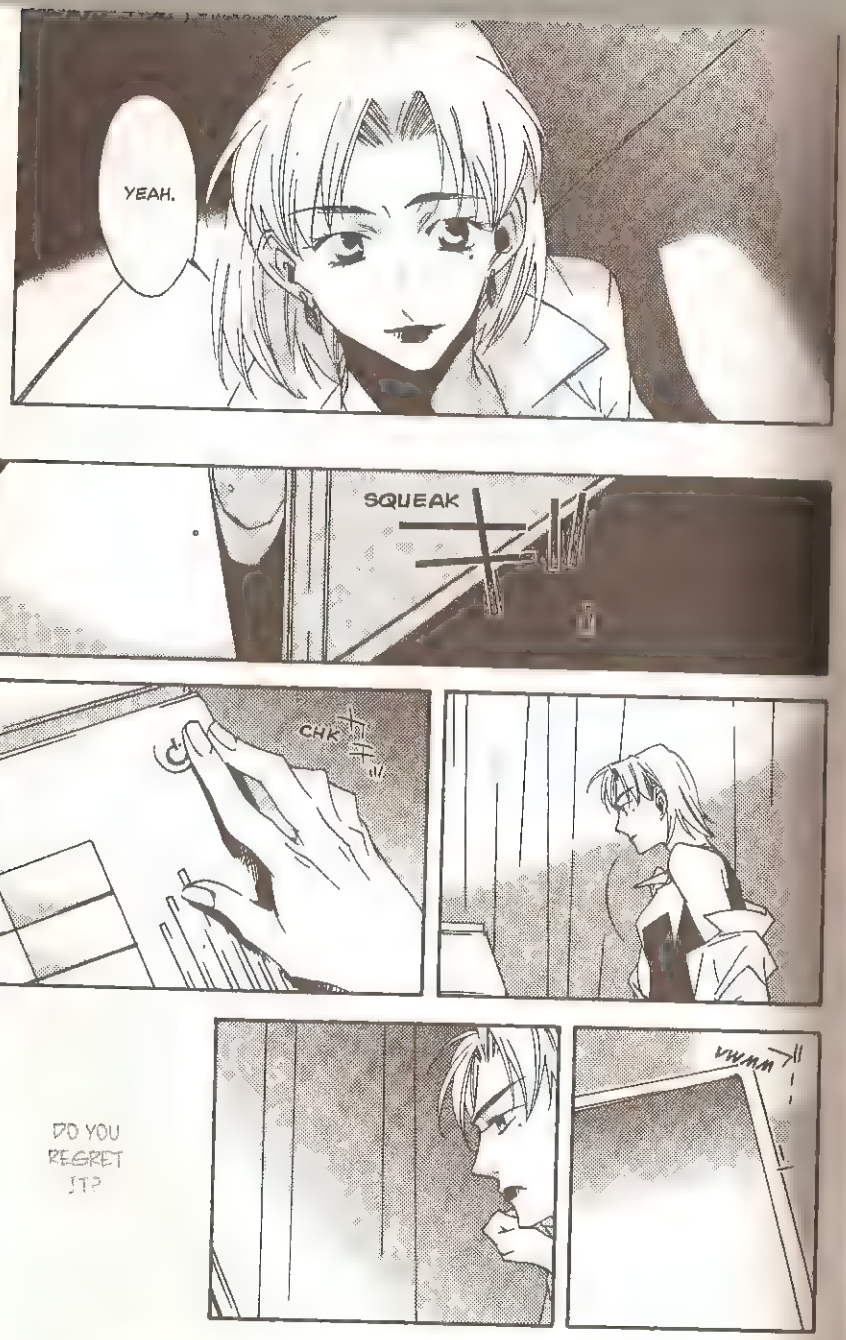

LET'S GO BACK TO OUR HOTELS.
VRRRRMMM-
I STILL REGRET IT.


WHEN WILL I FINALLY BE OVER IT?
THIS LOVE.
SSSHHH
SKREE
SSSHHH
SPLISH

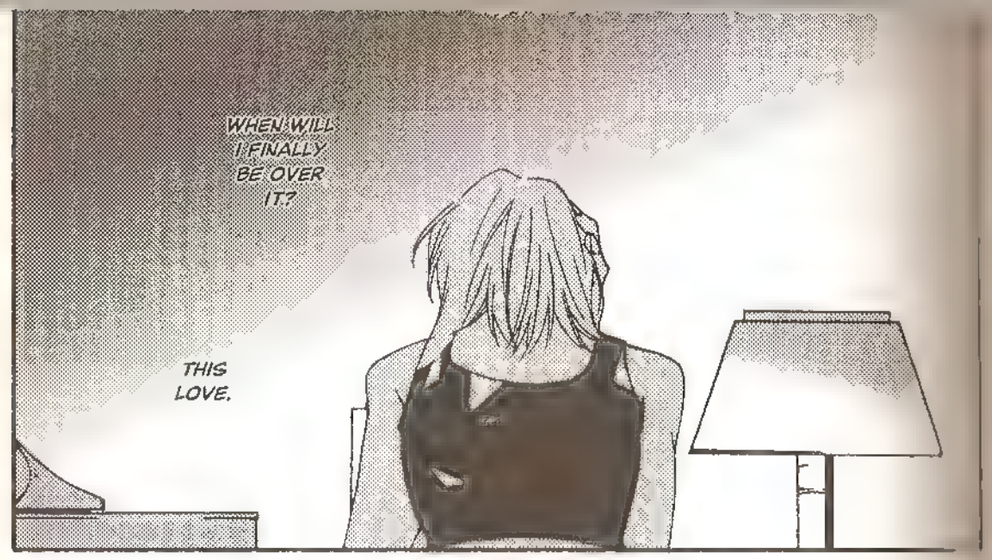

EVEN NOW, AFTER ALL THIS TIME.
TO STILL BE IN LOVE WITH HIM...
NOT BEING ABLE TO TOUCH HIM...
NOT BEING ABLE TO TOUCH HIM...
HOW LONG WILL THIS LOVE GO ON?
I FOUND HIM TOO LATE.


SHAKE
DO YOU REGRET IT? MEETING SHINJI?

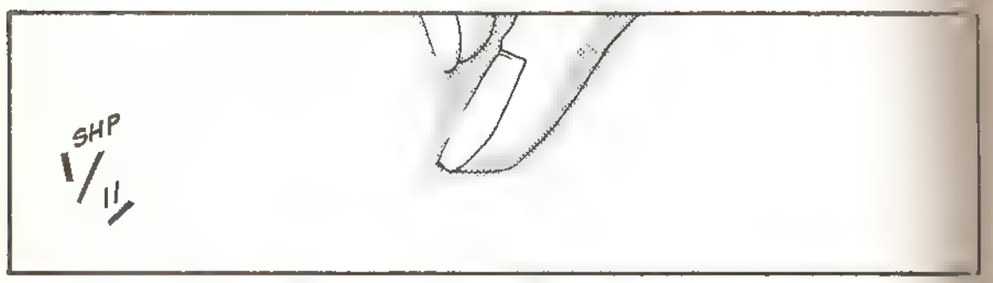

BUT...
I'LL PAY FOR THE TAXI.
DON'T WORRY. IT'LL GET TURNED OVER TO ACCOUNTING.
SSSHH
OK.
GOOD NIGHT.
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING!
I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.
REI.
YES?

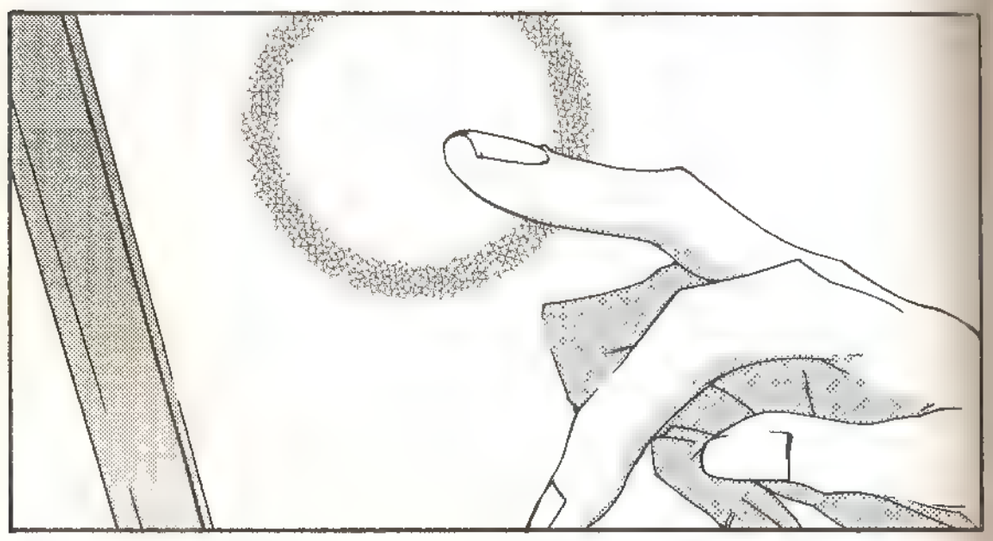

YEAH.
SQUEAK
CHK
DO YOU REGRET IT?
VWMM

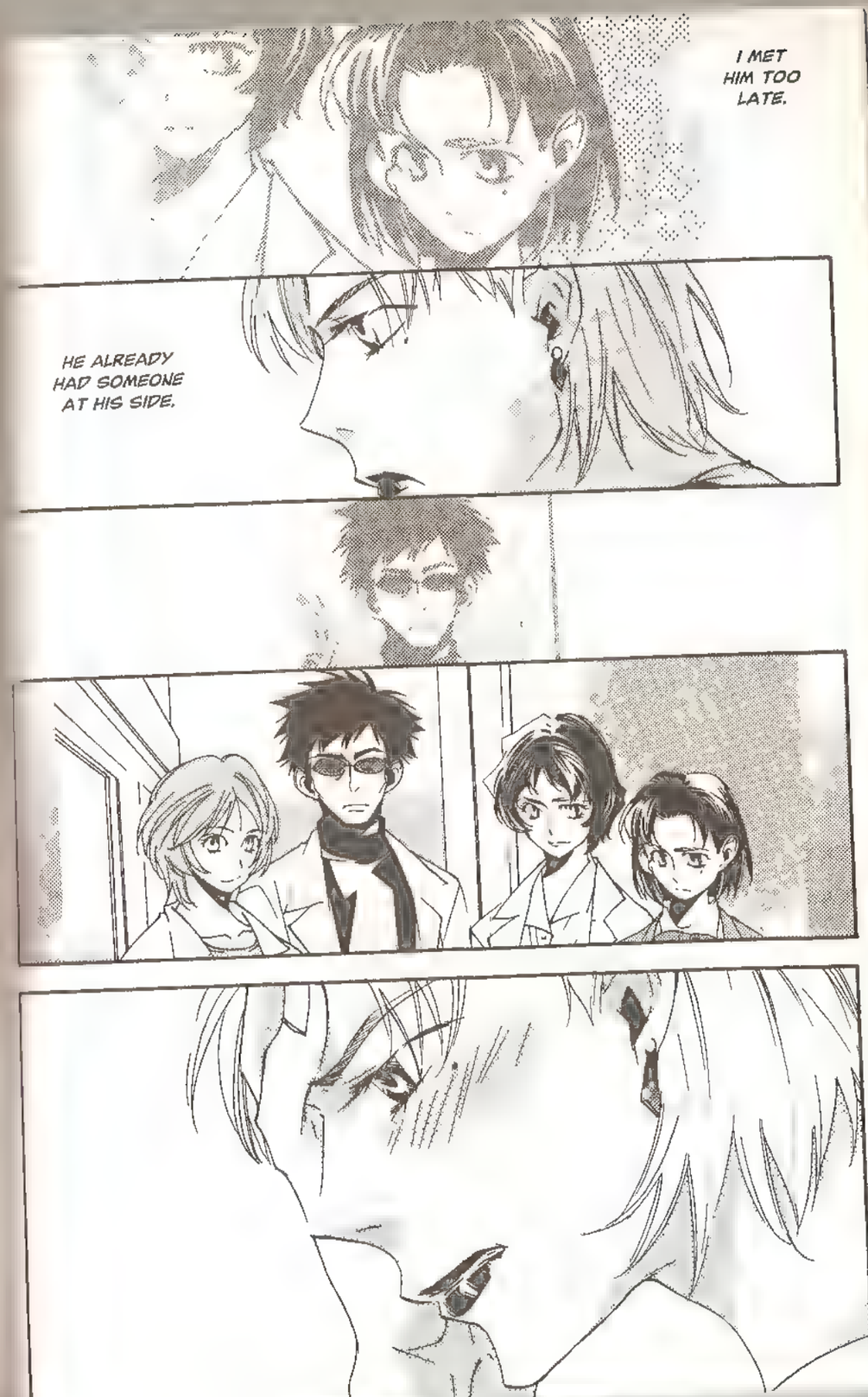
NO. BECAUSE I LOVE HIM.

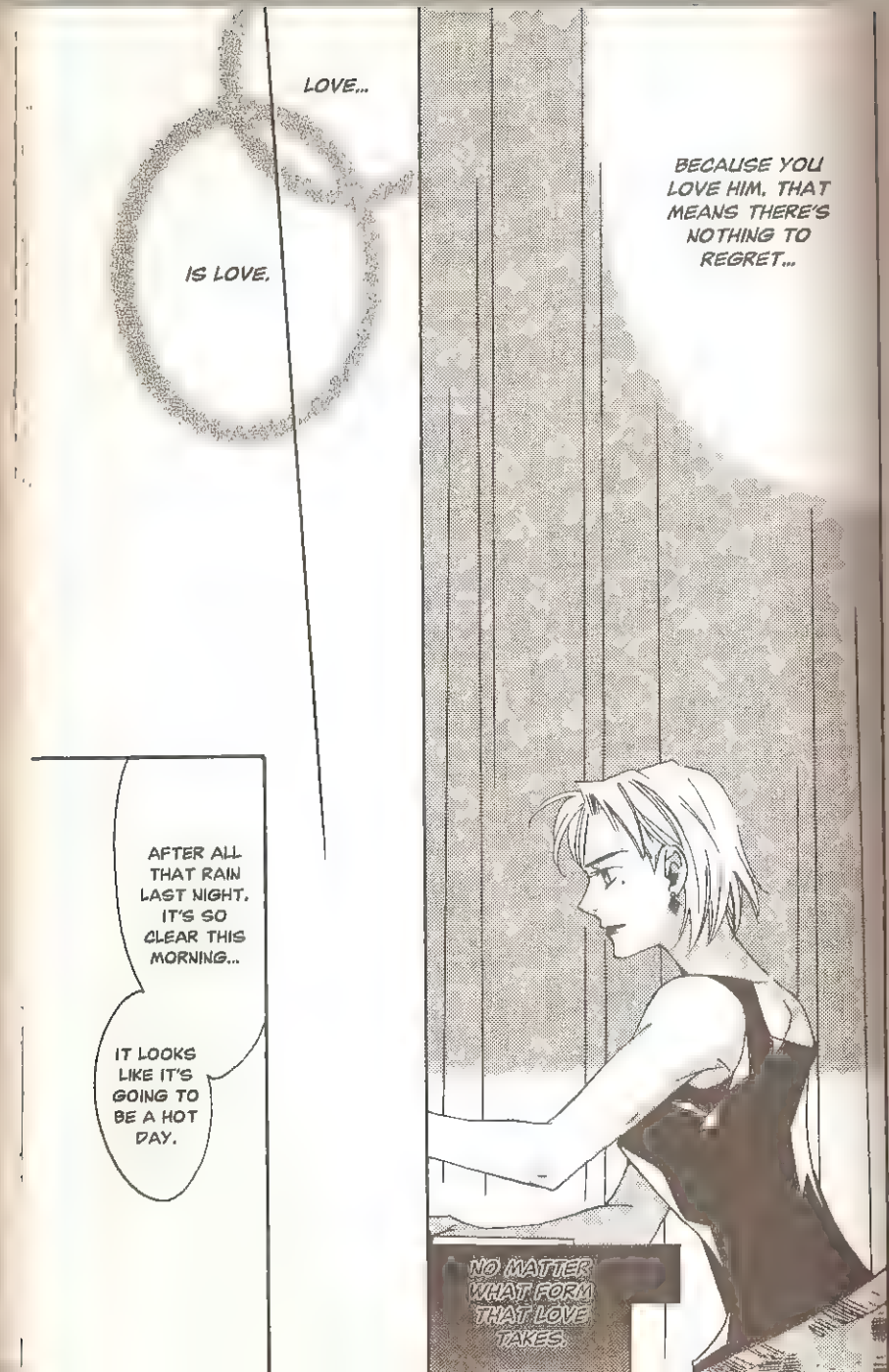


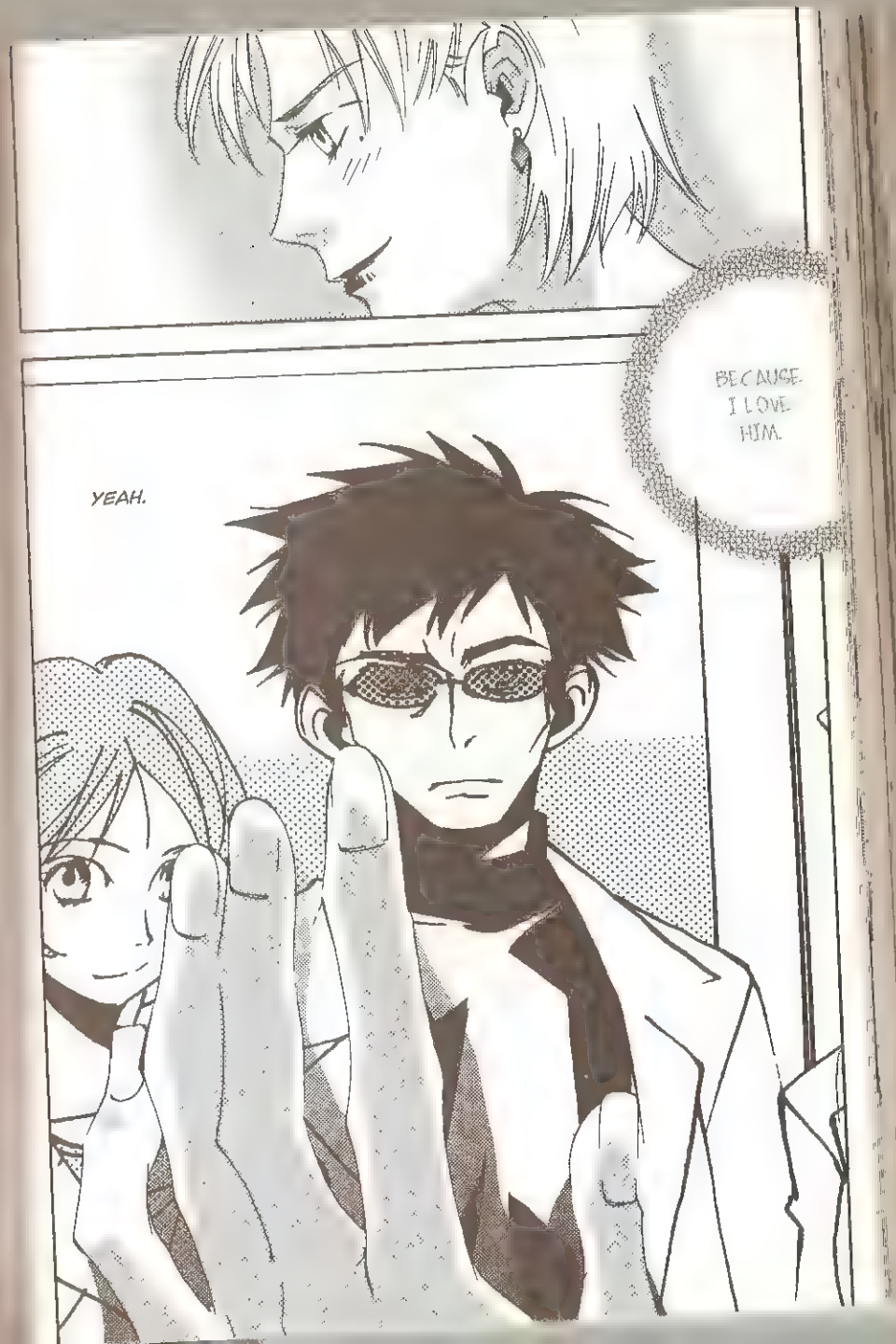
DO YOU REGRET IT?

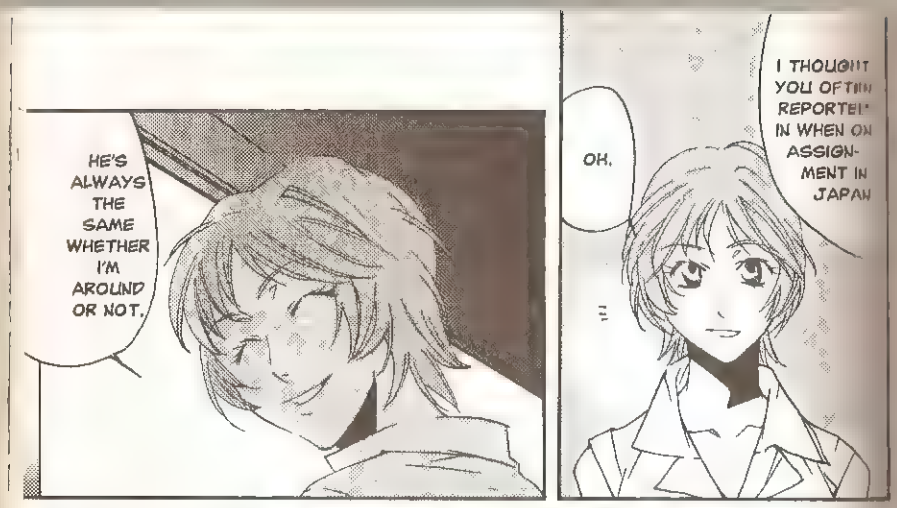


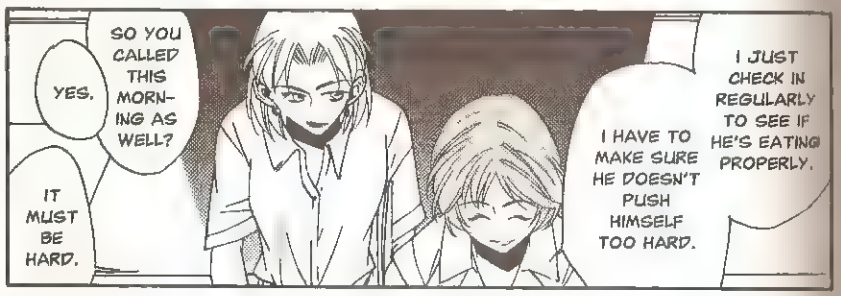




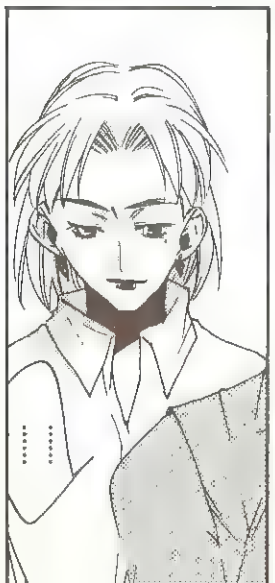

LOVE...
IS LOVE.
BECAUSE YOU LOVE HIM. THAT MEANS THERE'S NOTHING TO REGRET...
AFTER ALL THAT RAIN LAST NIGHT, IT'S SO CLEAR THIS MORNING...
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE A HOT DAY.
NO MATTER WHAT FORM THAT LOVE TAKES.

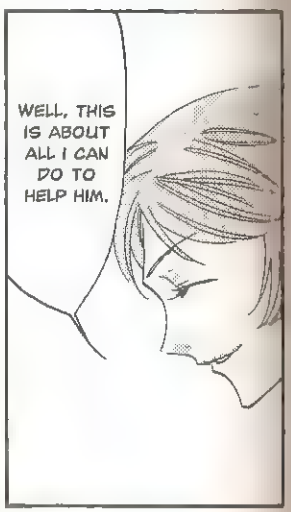

BECAUSE I LOVE HIM.
YEAH.

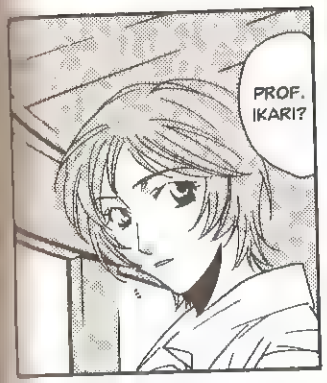

I THOUGHT YOU OFTEN REPORTED IN WHEN ON ASSIGNMENT IN JAPAN
OH.
HE'S ALWAYS THE SAME WHETHER I'M AROUND OR NOT.

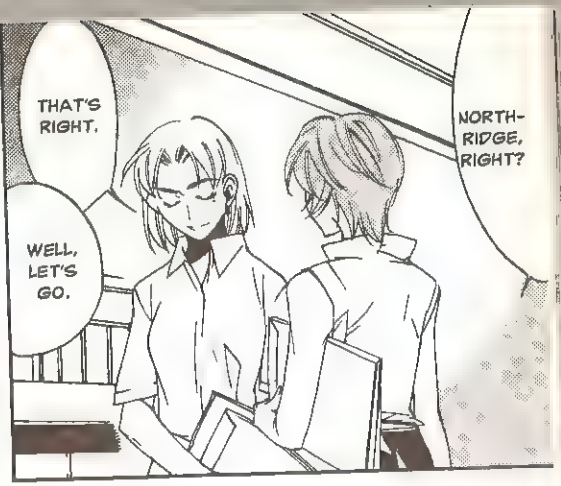

SO YOU CALLED THIS MORNING AS WELL?
YES.
IT MUST BE HARD.
I JUST CHECK IN REGULARLY TO SEE IF HE'S EATING PROPERLY.
I HAVE TO MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T PUSH HIMSELF TOO HARD.

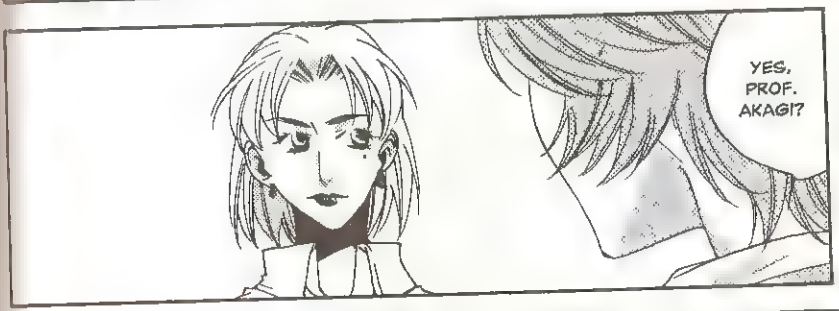
THE SUN SURE IS BRIGHT.


STILL... LOVE IS LOVE.


WELL, THIS IS ABOUT ALL I CAN DO TO HELP HIM.

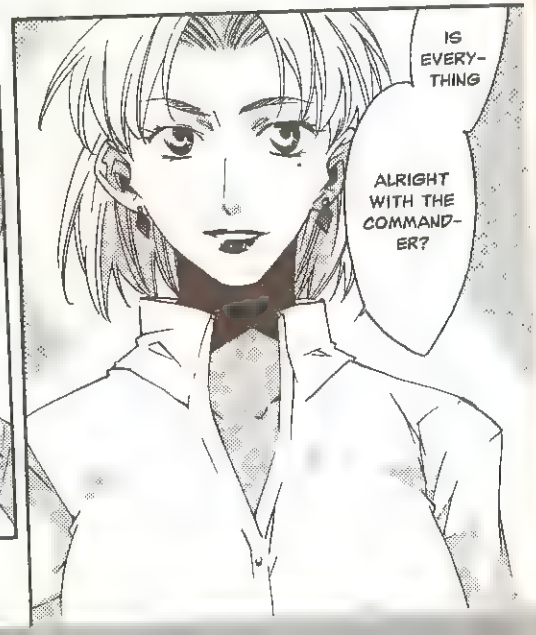

PROF. IKARI?


NORTH-RIDGE, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT.
WELL, LET'S GO.


YES, PROF. AKAGI?

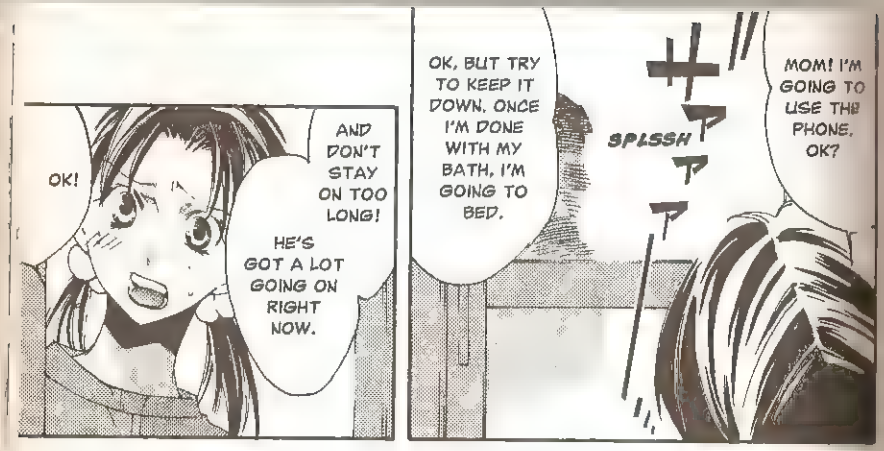
HAVEN'T YOU CONTACTED HIM SINCE WE'VE BEEN HERE?

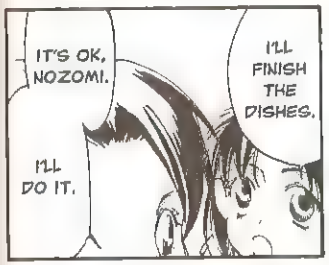
HUH?

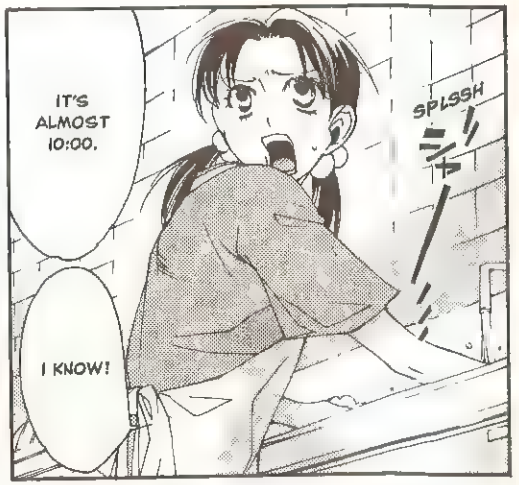

IS EVERY-THING ALRIGHT WITH THE COMMAND-ER?

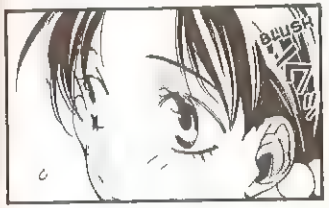
CHAPTER TWO: REI AND RITSUKO / END

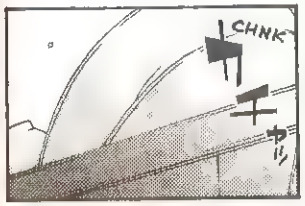
CHAPTER THREE: HIKARI AND TOJI


SIS!
HORAK!


IT'S OK, NOZOMI.
I'LL FINISH THE DISHES.
I'LL DO IT.


IT'S ALMOST 10:00.
SPLSSH
I KNOW!


BLUSH


CHNK

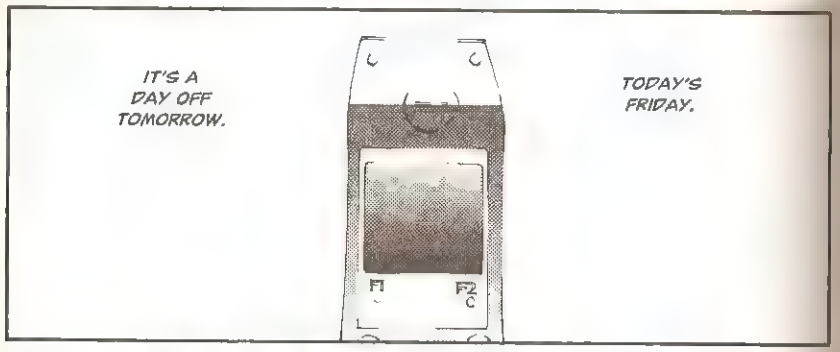
OK.
FINISHED! AND IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR YOU TO GO TO BED.

IT COMES JUST ONCE A WEEK.

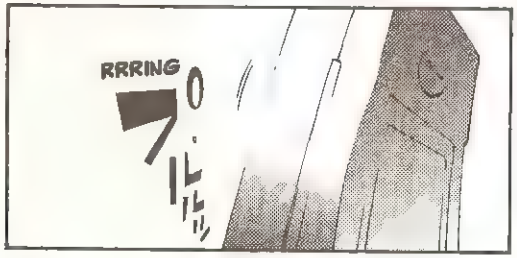
TODAY'S FRIDAY.

OK!
AND DON'T STAY ON TOO LONG!
HE'S GOT A LOT GOING ON RIGHT NOW.

OK, BUT TRY TO KEEP IT DOWN. ONCE I'M DONE WITH MY BATH, I'M GOING TO BED.
SPLSSH
MOM! I'M GOING TO USE THE PHONE. OK?

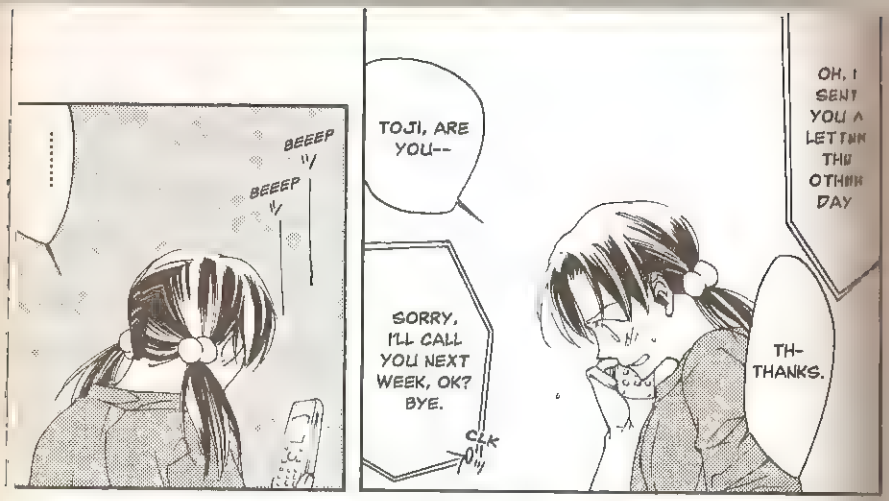

IT'S A DAY OFF TOMORROW.
F1
F2
TODAY'S FRIDAY.

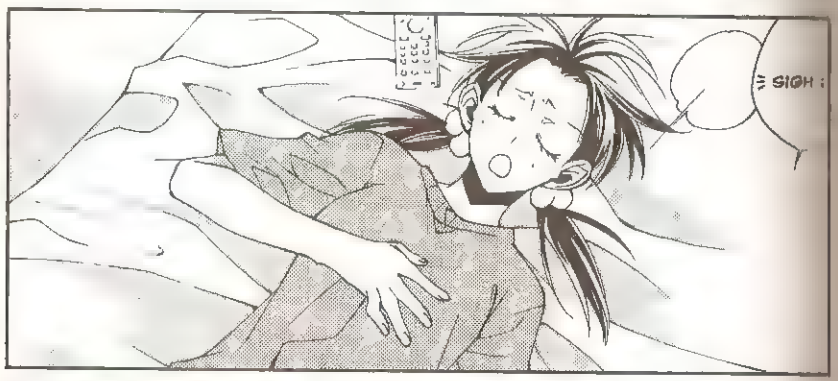
IF HE WAS LATE GETTING HOME, THE TIMING WILL BE ALL OFF.
WHAT SHOULD I DO? SHOULD I CALL HIM?
BUT...

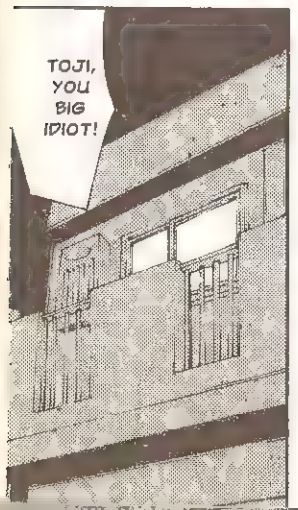

RRRING

DON'T BE MEAN!
I'VE GOT A PRETTY STRONG CONSTITUTION. I'M NOT TRYING TO BRAG, BUT I HAVEN'T CAUGHT A COLD SINCE JUNIOR HIGH.
YEAH, THEY SAY IDIOTS DON'T CATCH COLDS.
THEY'VE MOVED HIM AROUND TO TWO DIFFERENT PLACES ALREADY, BUT HE HASN'T MADE IT BACK TO JAPAN YET.
IF I HAD A COLD, I WOULDN'T BE CALLIN', WOULD I? ANYWAY, YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'RE DOIN' OK.
I ONLY GET TO HEAR THIS VOICE ONCE A WEEK.
THIS IS WHEN I'M HAPPIEST.
I'M FINE. DON'T WOR-RY.
ARE YOU BUSY?
DO YOU NEED TO HANG UP?
I HAVE THE DAY OFF TOMOR-ROW.
IT MUST BE PAST MIDNIGHT THERE. YOU STILL OK?
YUP!
OH...
Ah!

HELLO?
HELLO! HORAGI RESI-DENCE!
BEEP
IT'S RINGING!
RRNNNG
HIKARI?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT? I CALLED YA JUST LAST WEEK!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG, TOJI!
IT...
THAT'S HOW IT'S BEEN EVER SINCE THAT SUMMER IN JUNIOR HIGH WHEN HE WENT OVERSEAS.
YOU HAVEN'T CAUGHT A COLD OR ANYTHING, HAVE YOU?
YEAH, I GUESS SO.
ARE YOU DOING OK?
HE CALLS ME ONCE A WEEK, EVERY FRIDAY AT 10:00.

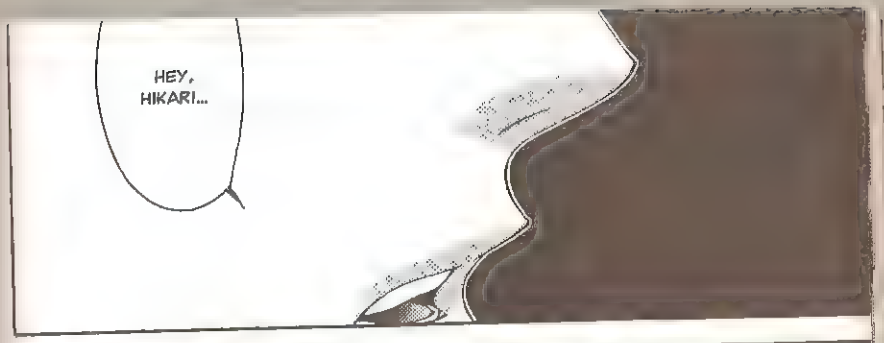

.....
BEEEP
BEEEP
TOJI, ARE YOU--
SORRY, I'LL CALL YOU NEXT WEEK, OK? BYE.
CLK
TH-THANKS.
OH, I SENT YOU A LETTER THE OTHER DAY

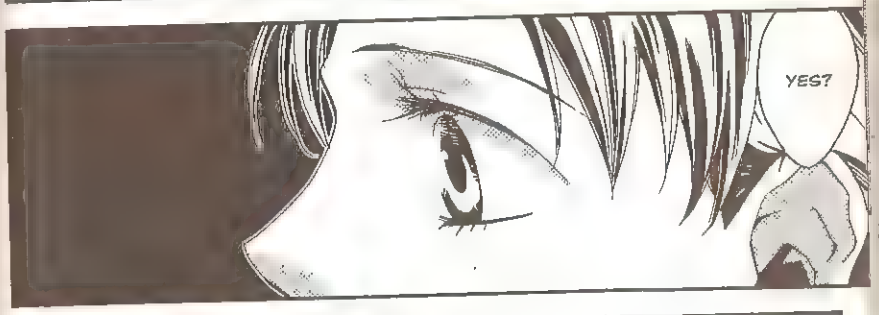

SIGH

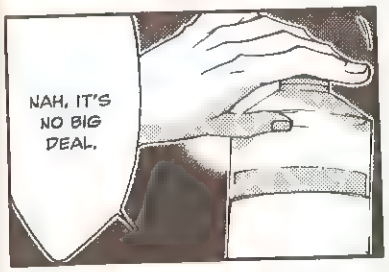

TOJI, YOU BIG IDIOT!

I WISH HE'D AT LEAST HAVE LET ME FINISH TALKING.

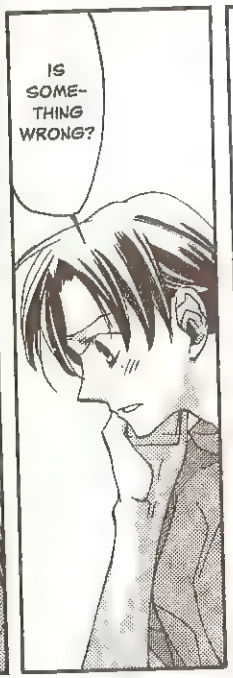
WE ONLY GET TO TALK ONCE A WEEK...

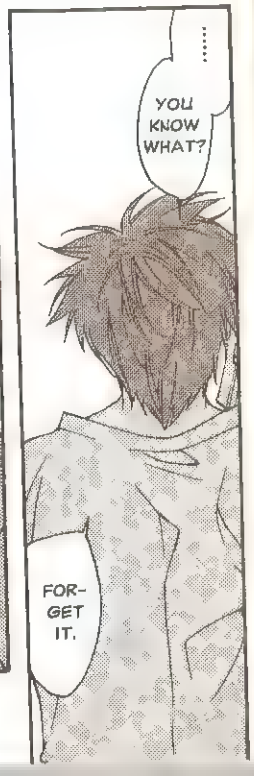

HEY, HIKARI...


YES?


NAH, IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

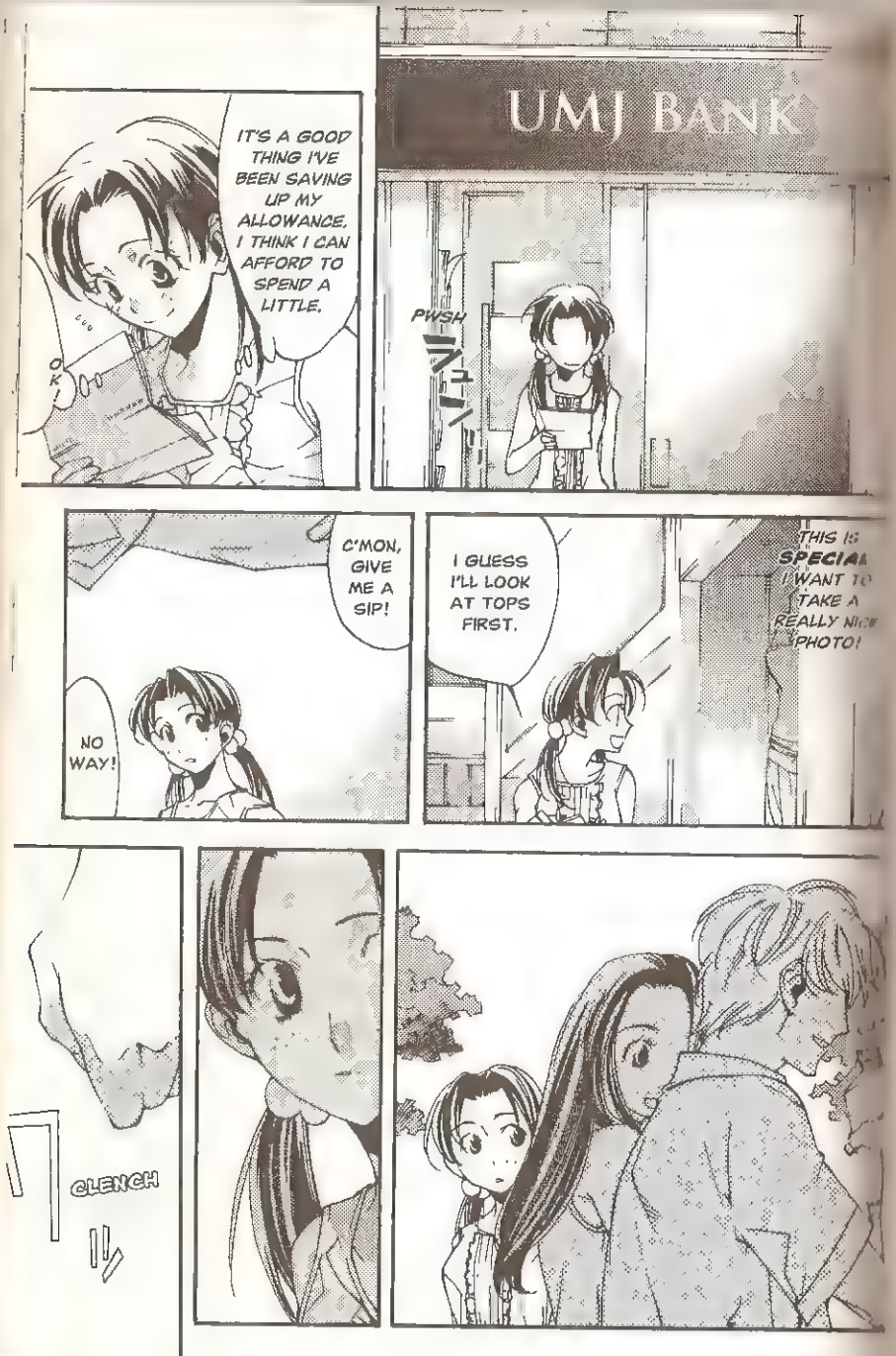
I GUESS I'M TIRED AFTER ALL.
SORRY, BUT I THINK I BETTER GET OFF THE PHONE.
TOJI?

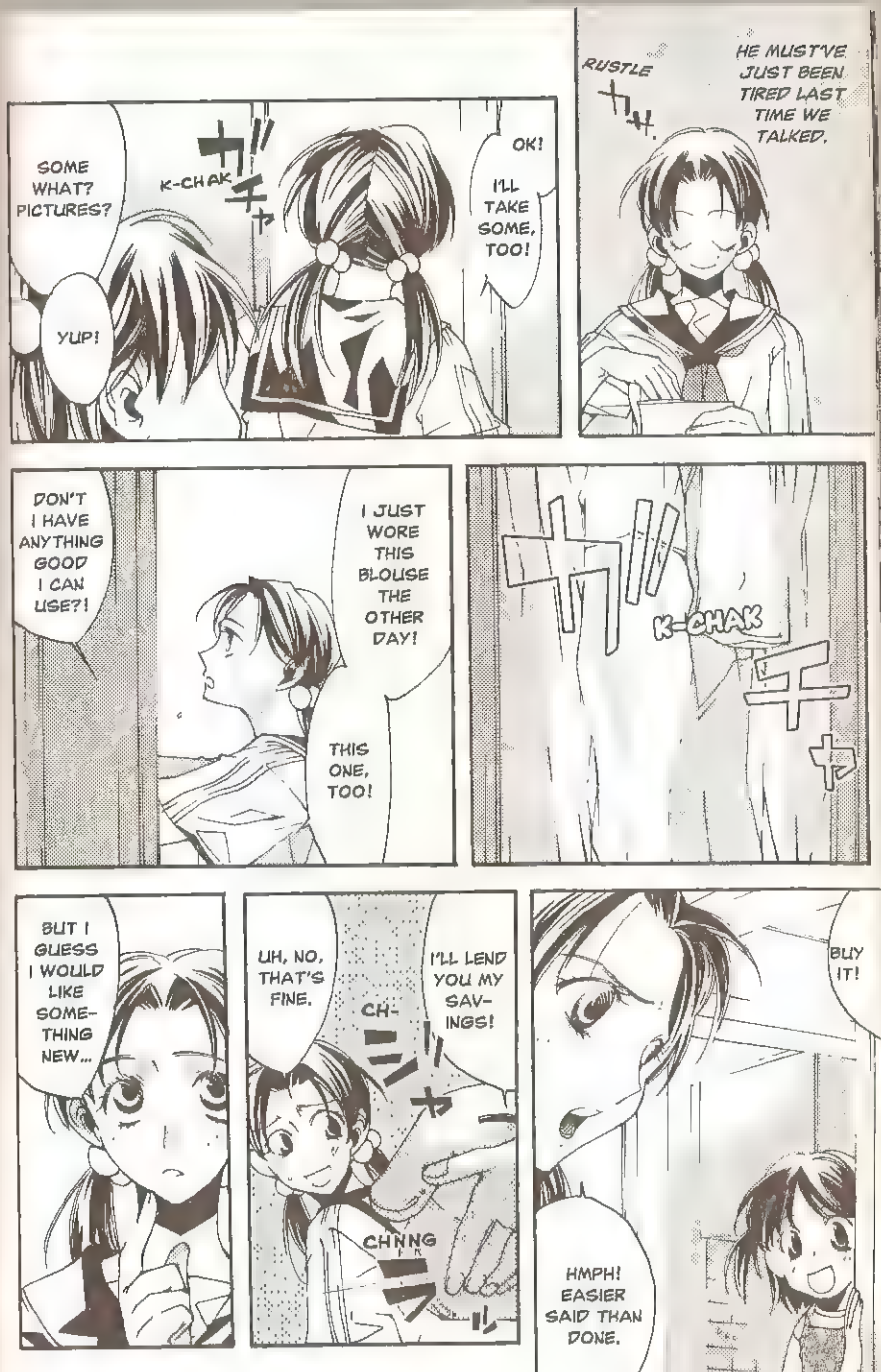

IS SOMETHING WRONG?


.....
YOU KNOW WHAT?
FORGET IT.

SHK
IS IT FROM YOUR GUY?!
QUIT LOOKING!
OH, COME ON!
SNIP
HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S DOING WELL...
I'M GLAD.
≡PHEW≡
HE'S TOO DARK!
AH! HE...
HE'S SO DARK!

IT'S HERE!
B-THMP
BEEP
B-THMP
.....
YEAH!
CHAK
NOZOMI! DO YOU HAVE ANY SCISSORS?!
HE'S SO FAR AWAY, ACROSS THE OCEAN, AND YET...

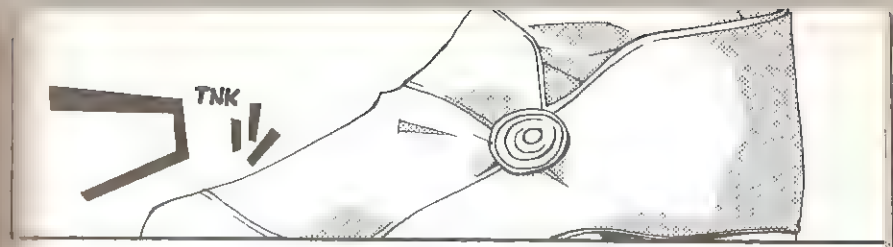

IT'S A GOOD THING I'VE BEEN SAVING UP MY ALLOWANCE. I THINK I CAN AFFORD TO SPEND A LITTLE.
OK!
UMJ BANK
PWSH
C'MON, GIVE ME A SIP!
NO WAY!
I GUESS I'LL LOOK AT TOPS FIRST.
THIS IS SPECIAL I WANT TO TAKE A REALLY NICE PHOTO!
CLENCH

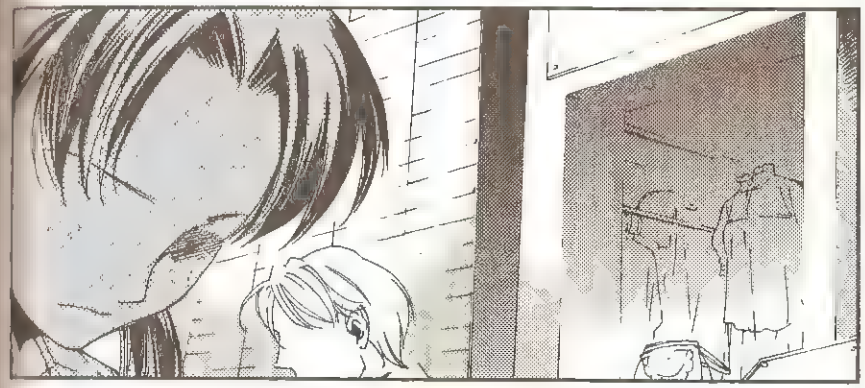

SOME WHAT? PICTURES?
YUP!
K-CHAK
OK! I'LL TAKE SOME, TOO!
RUSTLE
HE MUST'VE JUST BEEN TIRED LAST TIME WE TALKED.
DON'T I HAVE ANYTHING GOOD I CAN USE?!
I JUST WORE THIS BLOUSE THE OTHER DAY!
THIS ONE, TOO!
K-CHAK
BUT I GUESS I WOULD LIKE SOME-THING NEW...
UH, NO, THAT'S FINE.
CH-
I'LL LEND YOU MY SAV-INGS!
CHNNG
BUY IT!
HMPH! EASIER SAID THAN DONE.

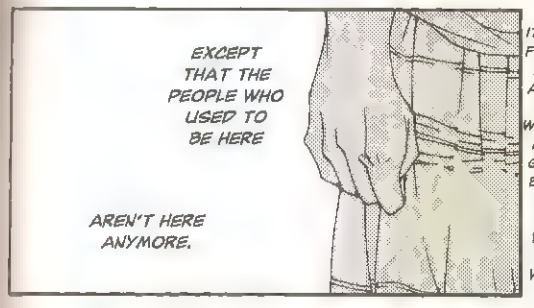
EVEN TOJI...

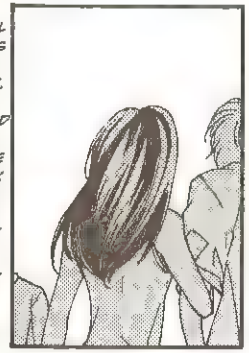
IS GONE.

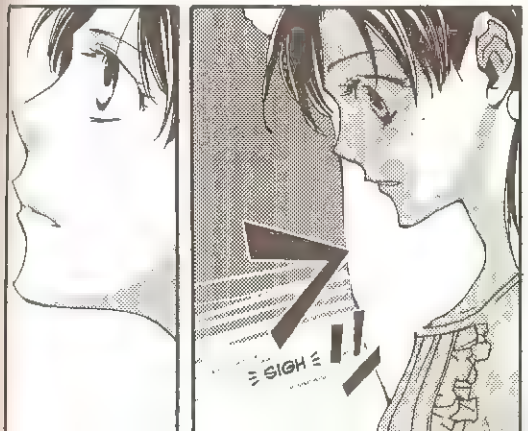
I'M ALL ALONE.

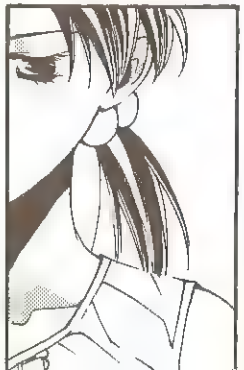

TNK

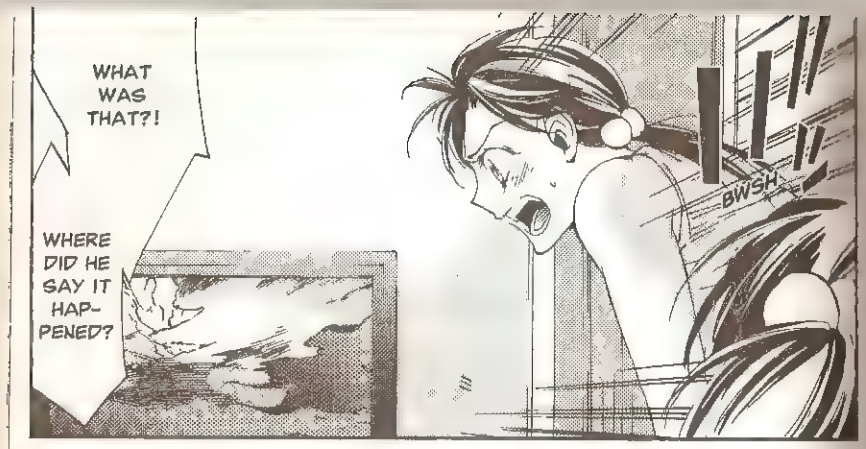


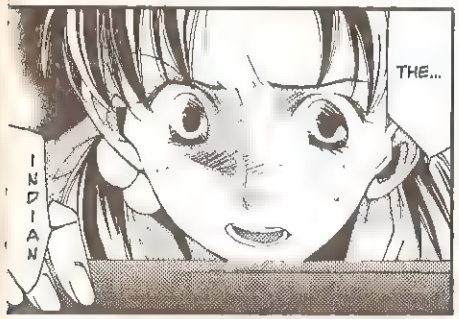

EXCEPT THAT THE PEOPLE WHO USED TO BE HERE
AREN'T HERE ANYMORE.

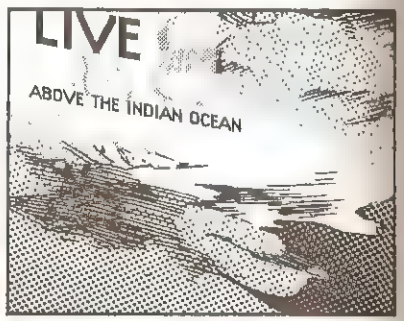

IT ALL FEELS LIKE A LIE. THE WORLD HAS GONE BACK TO THE WAY IT WAS.
THAT SUM-MER...

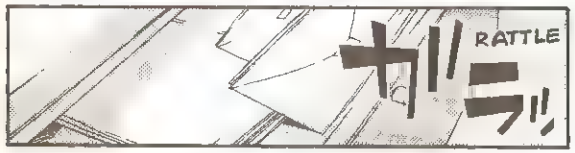

= SIGH =

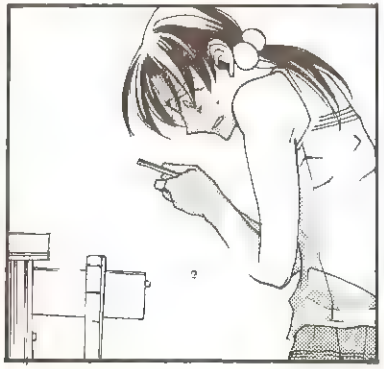






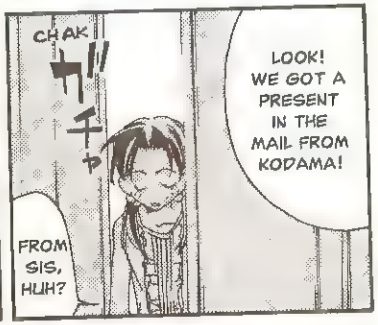


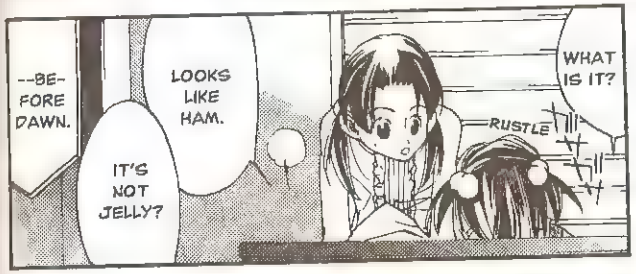


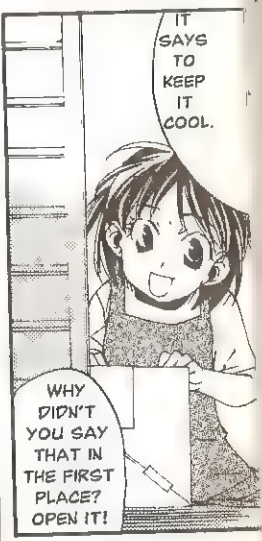


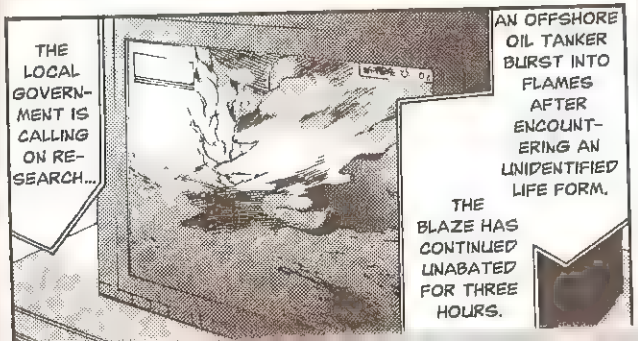
I...

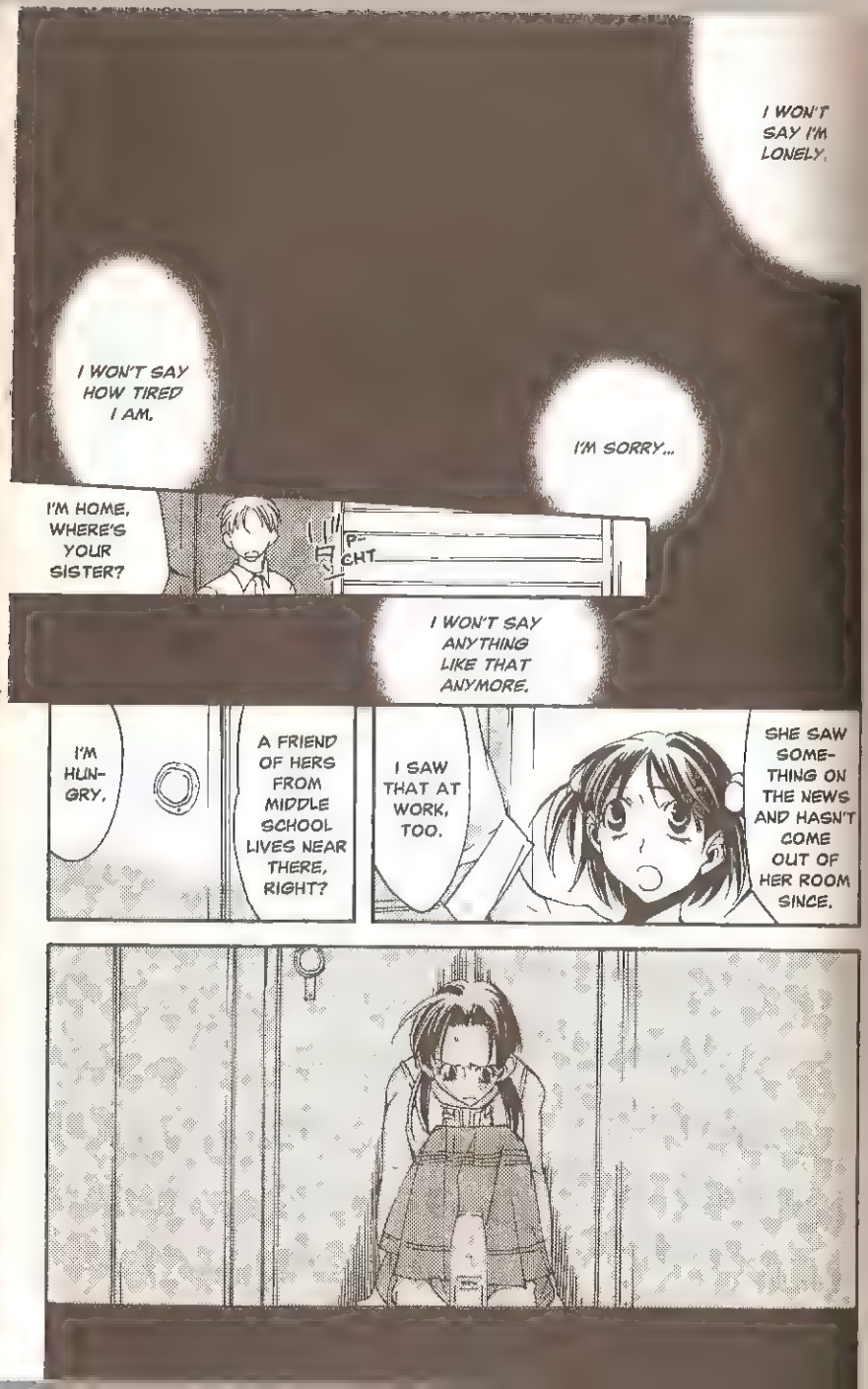
I FEEL TIRED.

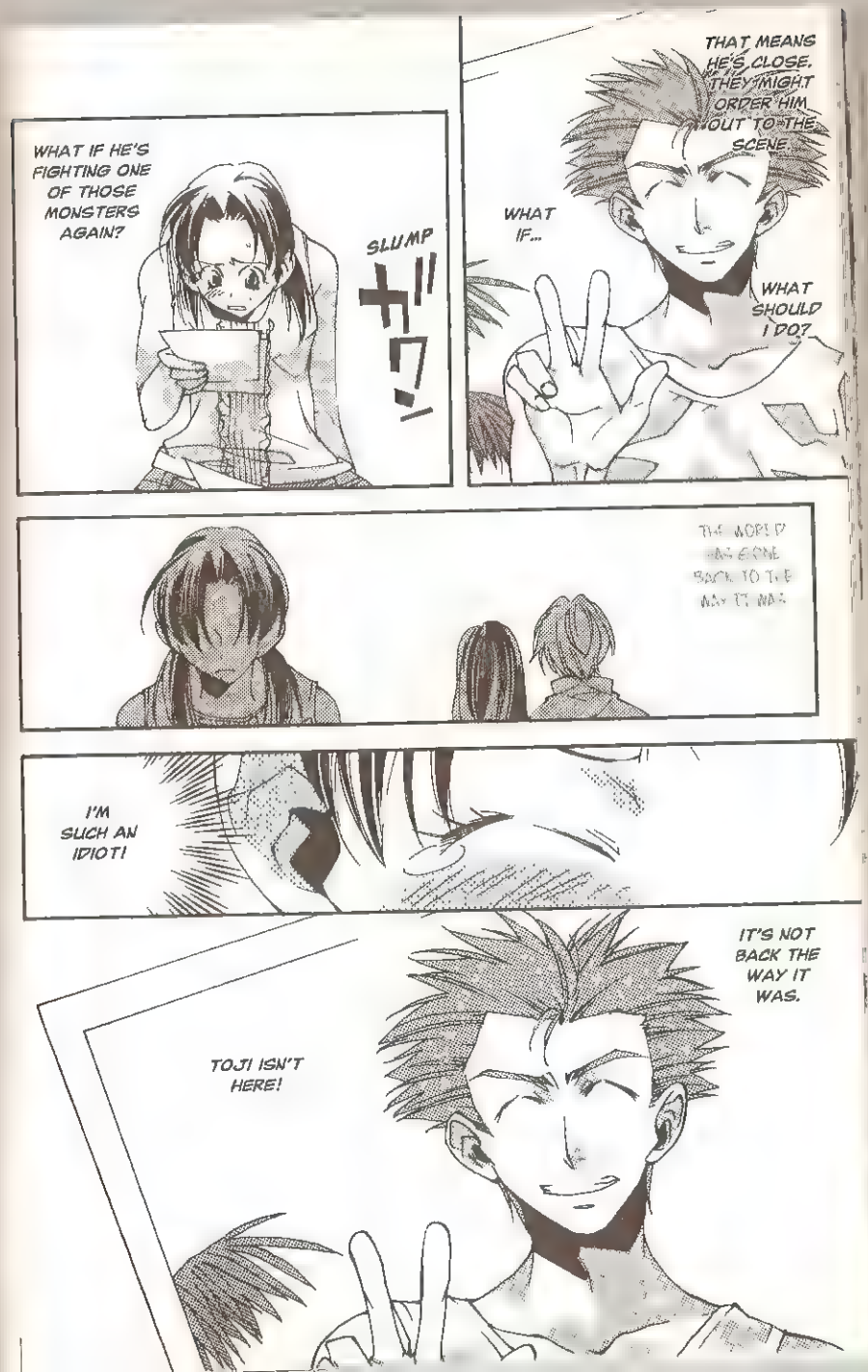






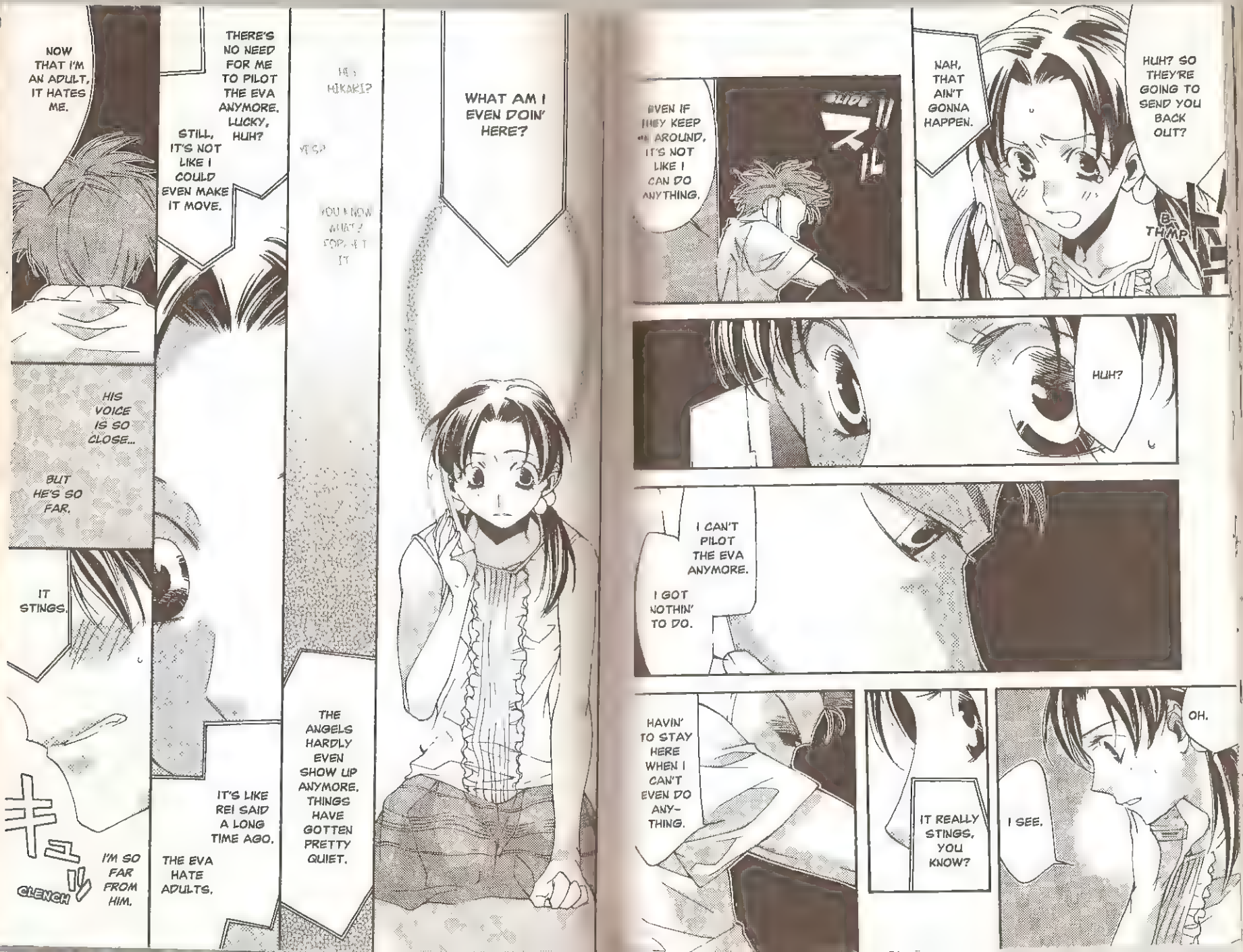

THE LOCAL GOVERN-MENT IS CALLING ON RE-SEARCH...
AN OFFSHORE OIL TANKER BURST INTO FLAMES AFTER ENCOUNT-ERING AN UNIDENTIFIED LIFE FORM.
THE BLAZE HAS CONTINUED UNABATED FOR THREE HOURS.


I WON'T SAY I'M LONELY.
I WON'T SAY HOW TIRED I AM.
I'M SORRY...
I'M HOME. WHERE'S YOUR SISTER?
P-CHT
I WON'T SAY ANYTHING LIKE THAT ANYMORE.
I'M HUN-GRY.
A FRIEND OF HERS FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL LIVES NEAR THERE, RIGHT?
I SAW THAT AT WORK, TOO.
SHE SAW SOME-THING ON THE NEWS AND HASN'T COME OUT OF HER ROOM SINCE.

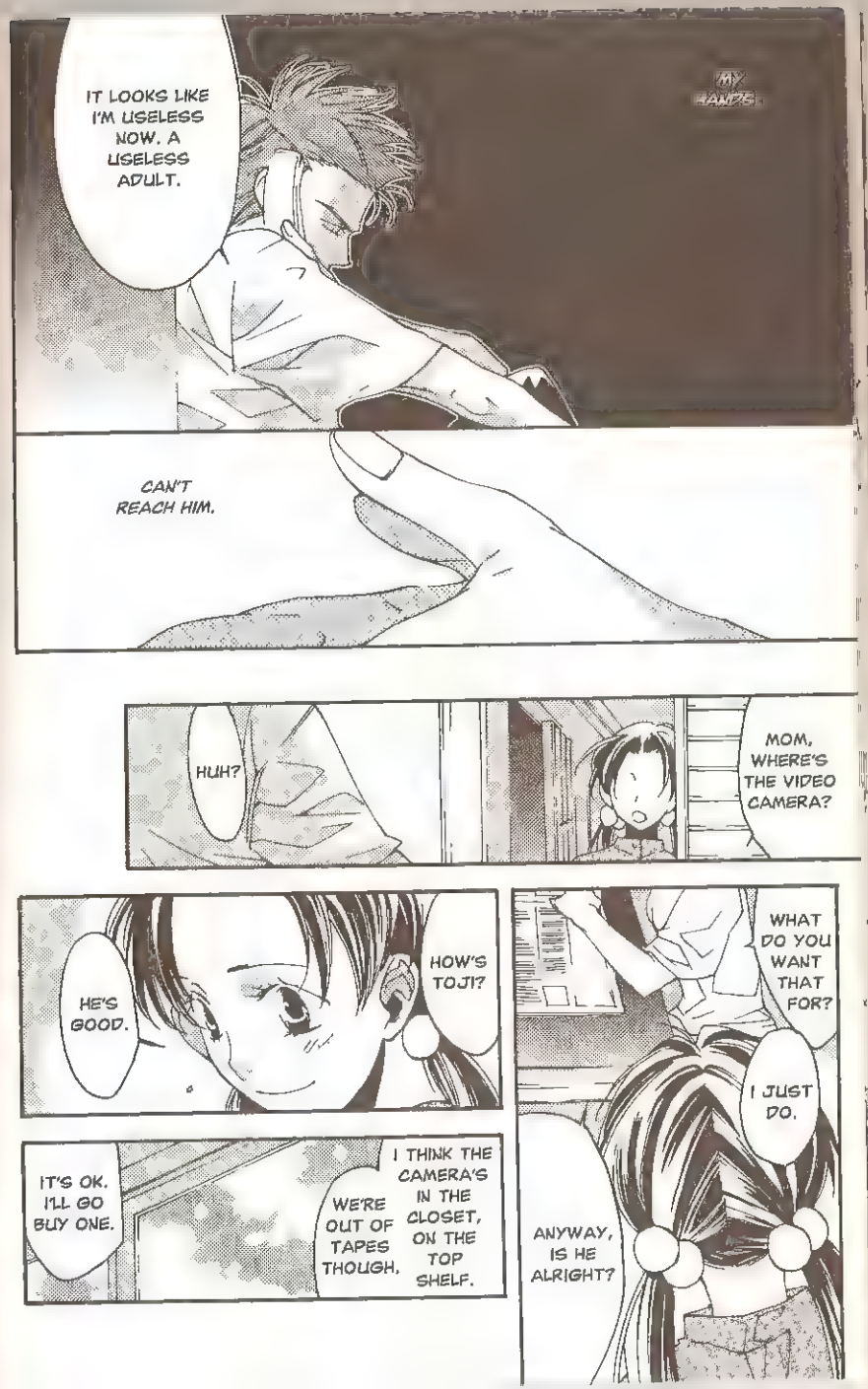

WHAT IF HE'S FIGHTING ONE OF THOSE MONSTERS AGAIN?
SLUMP ガクン
THAT MEANS HE'S CLOSE. THEY MIGHT ORDER HIM OUT TO THE SCENE.
WHAT IF...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
THE WORLD HAS GONE BACK TO THE WAY IT WAS
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!
IT'S NOT BACK THE WAY IT WAS.
TOJI ISN'T HERE!

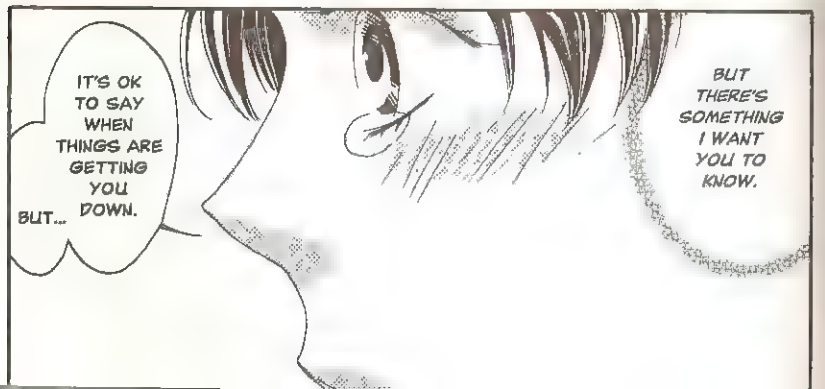
TO-JI?
DRIP
HIKARI?
!
UM...
KLK
HELLO?
I THOUGHT THEY MIGHT HAVE SENT YOU OUT.
I WAS SO WORRIED!
THANK GOOD-NESS!
I'VE BEEN ON STANDBY THIS WHOLE TIME. I JUST BARELY GOT BACK.
DRIP
OH, THANK GOOD-NESS!
I GUESS WHAT HAPPENED OUT IN THE OCEAN MADE THE NEWS, HUH?
DRIP
YEAH.

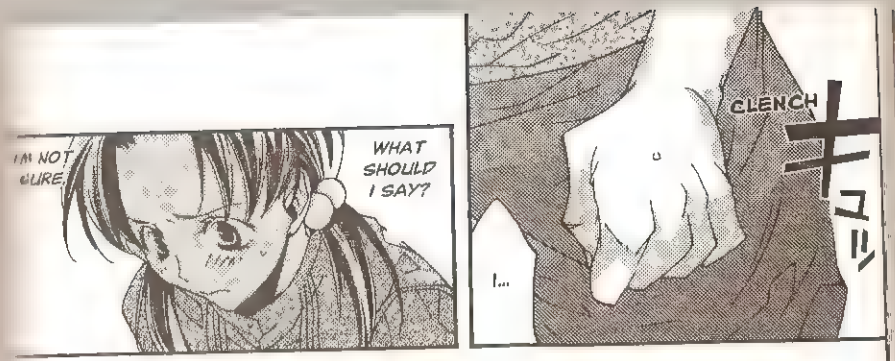
.....
WHAT IF HE DOESN'T ANSWER?
I WANT TO MAKE SURE HE'S OK.
BUT...
IF SOME-THING HAP-PENED...
NO! I HAVE TO CALL HIM!
IF HE DOESN'T PICK UP, I CAN LEAVE HIM A MESSAGE.
BWSH
TOJI!
TOJI...
TOJI...
SOME-ONE...
WOULD TELL ME.
RNNNG
IFIFIFIFT
DRP

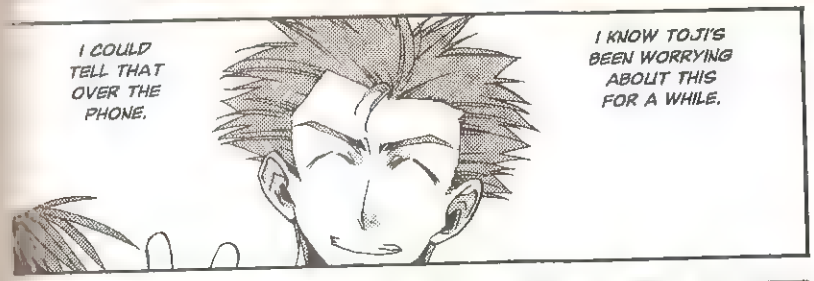

NOW THAT I'M AN ADULT, IT HATES ME.
THERE'S NO NEED FOR ME TO PILOT THE EVA ANYMORE. LUCKY, HUH?
STILL, IT'S NOT LIKE I COULD EVEN MAKE IT MOVE.
HIS VOICE IS SO CLOSE...
BUT HE'S SO FAR.
IT STINGS.
CLENCH
I'M SO FAR FROM HIM.
IT'S LIKE REI SAID A LONG TIME AGO.
THE EVA HATE ADULTS.
HEY, HIKARI?
YES?
YOU KNOW WHAT? FORGET IT
THE ANGELS HARDLY EVEN SHOW UP ANYMORE. THINGS HAVE GOTTEN PRETTY QUIET.
WHAT AM I EVEN DOIN' HERE?
EVEN IF THEY KEEP ON AROUND, IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN DO ANYTHING.
SLIDE
NAH, THAT AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN.
HUH? SO THEY'RE GOING TO SEND YOU BACK OUT?
B-THMP
HUH?
I CAN'T PILOT THE EVA ANYMORE.
I GOT NOTHIN' TO DO.
HAVIN' TO STAY HERE WHEN I CAN'T EVEN DO ANY-THING.
IT REALLY STINGS, YOU KNOW?
I SEE.
OH.

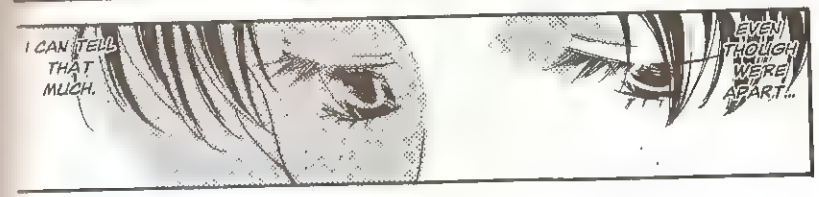
TNK
I THINK THIS IS THE RECORD BUTTON.
I GUESS I'LL JUST PUT IT ON THE DESK.
TODAY I'M DOING THIS VIDEO TO SEND TO YOU.
UM
HI! IT'S ME, HIKARI.
AHEM
THAN A LETTER OR A PHONE CALL.
I FIGURED THIS WOULD BE BETTER ...


IT LOOKS LIKE I'M USELESS NOW. A USELESS ADULT.
MY DAD'S
CAN'T REACH HIM.
HUH?
MOM, WHERE'S THE VIDEO CAMERA?
HOW'S TOJI?
HE'S GOOD.
WHAT DO YOU WANT THAT FOR?
I JUST DO.
I THINK THE CAMERA'S IN THE CLOSET, ON THE TOP SHELF.
WE'RE OUT OF TAPES THOUGH.
IT'S OK. I'LL GO BUY ONE.
ANYWAY, IS HE ALRIGHT?

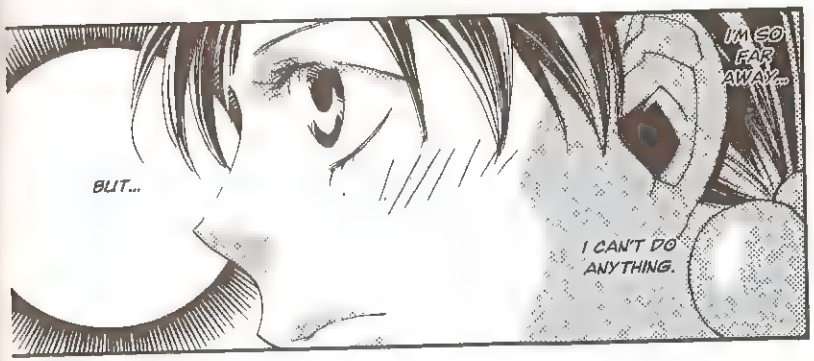


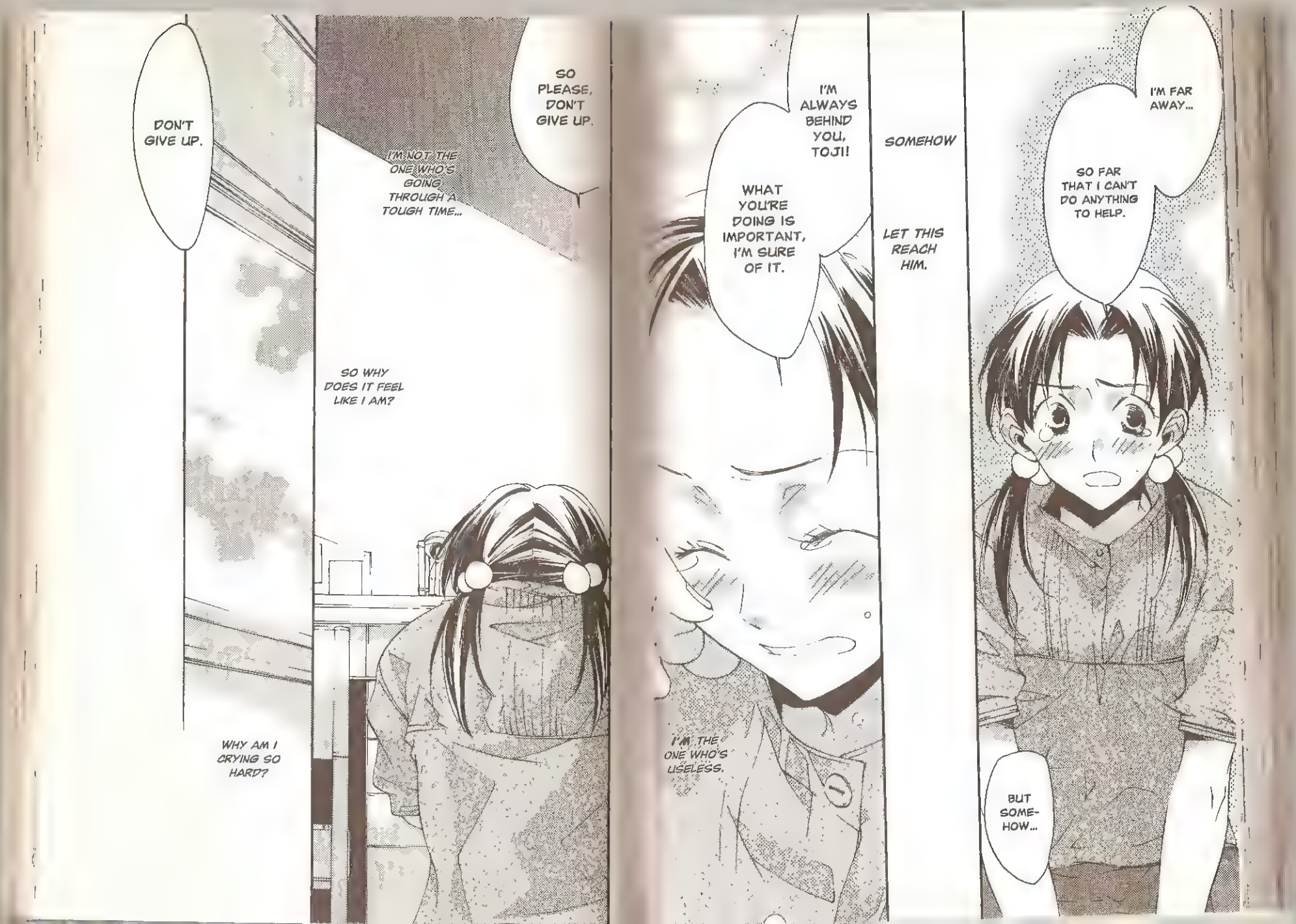


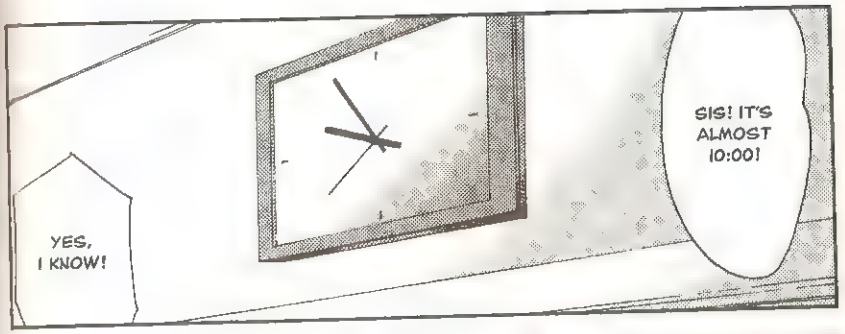


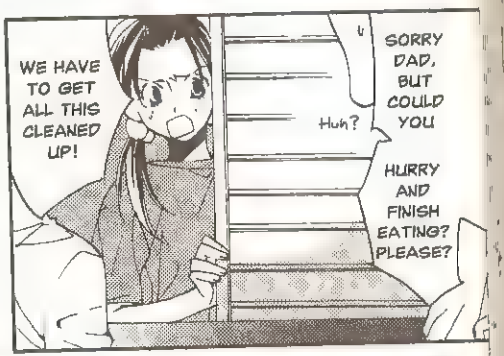


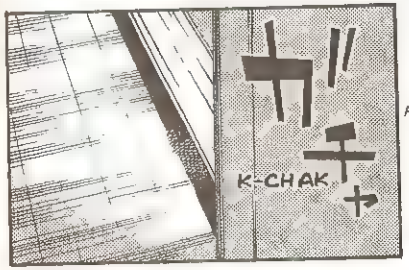
HOW CAN I HELP HIM?



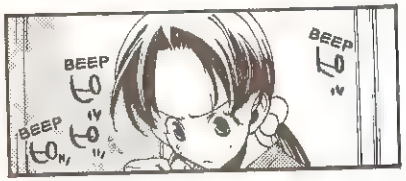

I'M FAR AWAY...
SO FAR THAT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO HELP.
BUT SOME-HOW...
SOMEHOW
LET THIS REACH HIM.
I'M ALWAYS BEHIND YOU, TOJI!
WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS IMPORTANT, I'M SURE OF IT.
I'M THE ONE WHO'S USELESS.
SO PLEASE, DON'T GIVE UP.
I'M NOT THE ONE WHO'S GOING THROUGH A TOUGH TIME...
SO WHY DOES IT FEEL LIKE I AM?
DON'T GIVE UP.
WHY AM I CRYING SO HARD?



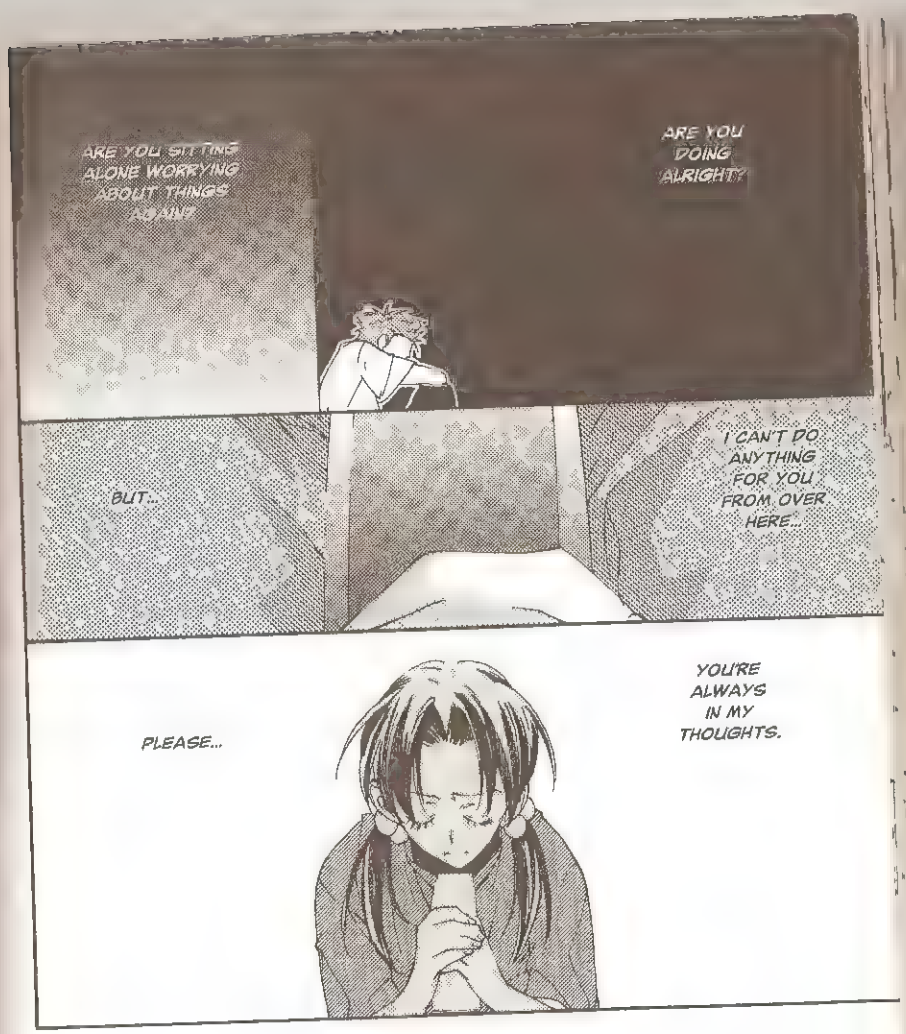


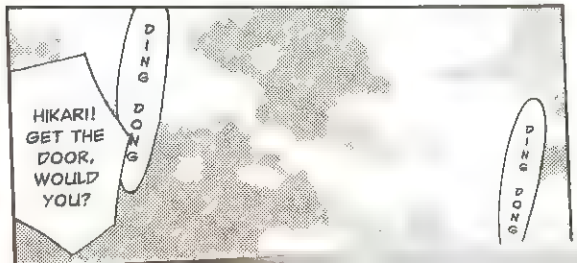


FRIDAY'S COME AGAIN.

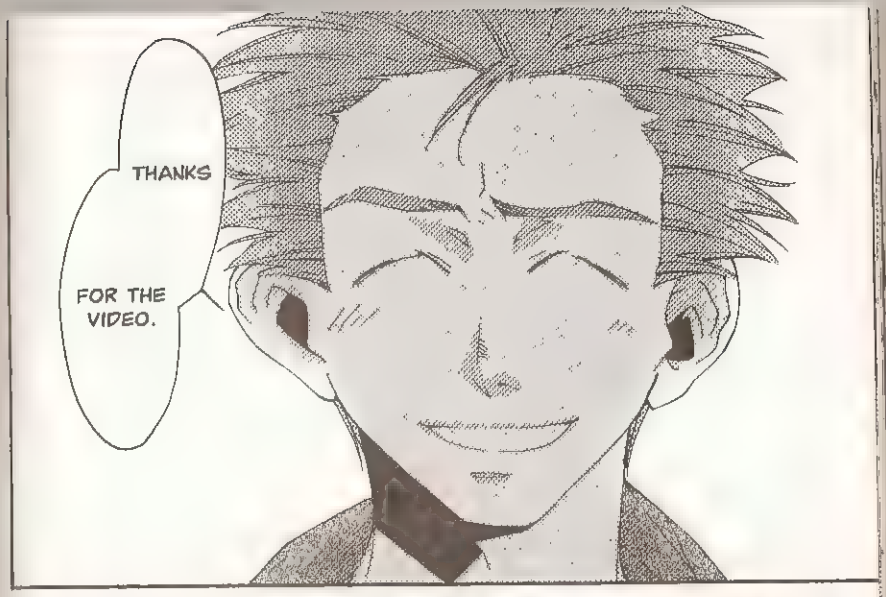


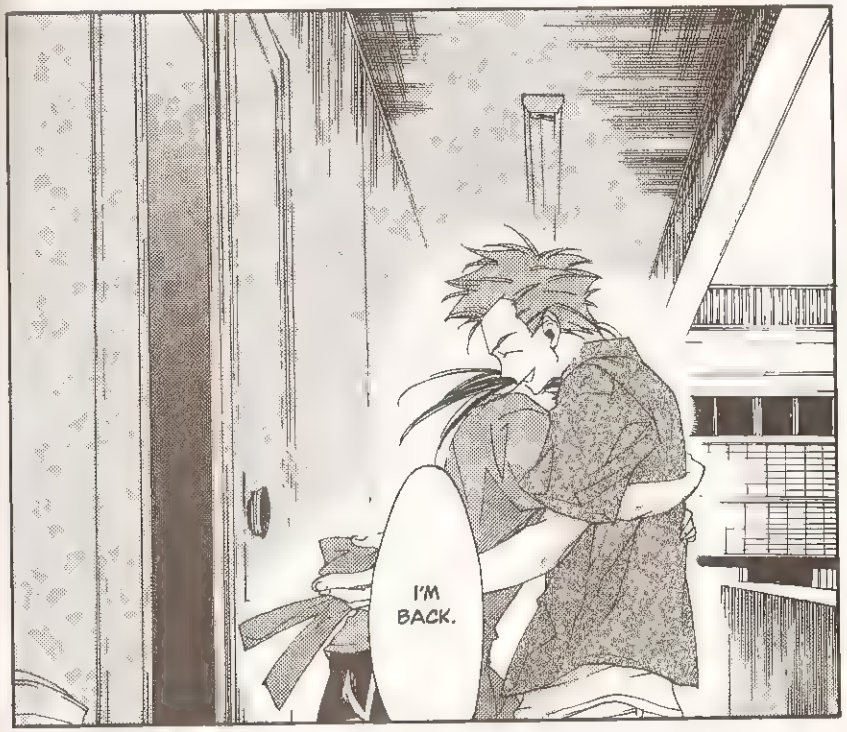
PEEK
THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T GET TO SLEEP LAST NIGHT.
IT'S SO EAR-LY!
YESTER-DAY TURNED INTO TODAY, AND I STILL COULDN'T GET HOLD OF HIM.
AND I'VE GOT MY HANDS FULL!
COME ON!
YOUR PLACE SURE IS HARD TO FIND! I'VE BEEN GOIN' ROUND IN CIR-CLES.
T-
YO!
CHAK


ARE YOU SITTING ALONE WORRYING ABOUT THINGS AGAIN?
ARE YOU DOING ALRIGHT?
BUT...
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR YOU FROM OVER HERE...
PLEASE...
YOU'RE ALWAYS IN MY THOUGHTS.
PLEASE JUST UNDERSTAND THAT.

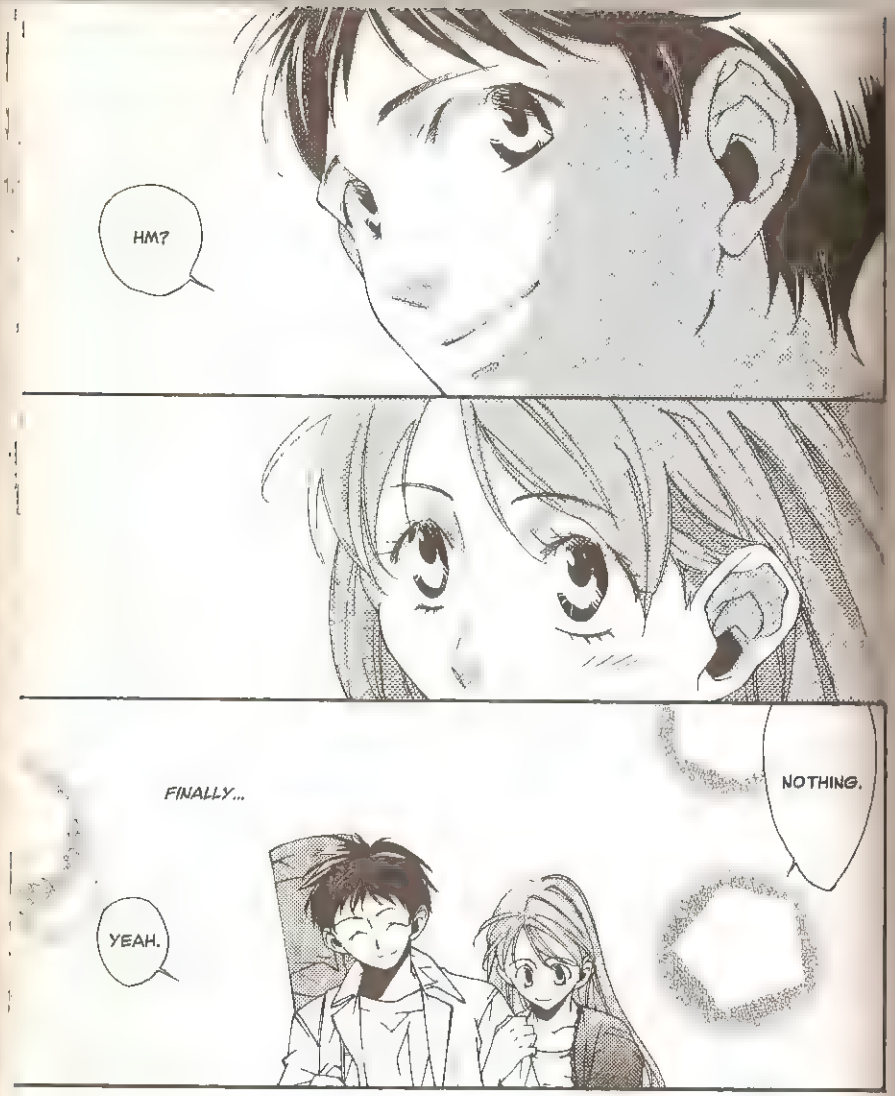

HIKARI! GET THE DOOR, WOULD YOU?
DING DONG
DING DONG

CHAPTER FOUR: SHINJI AND ASUKA

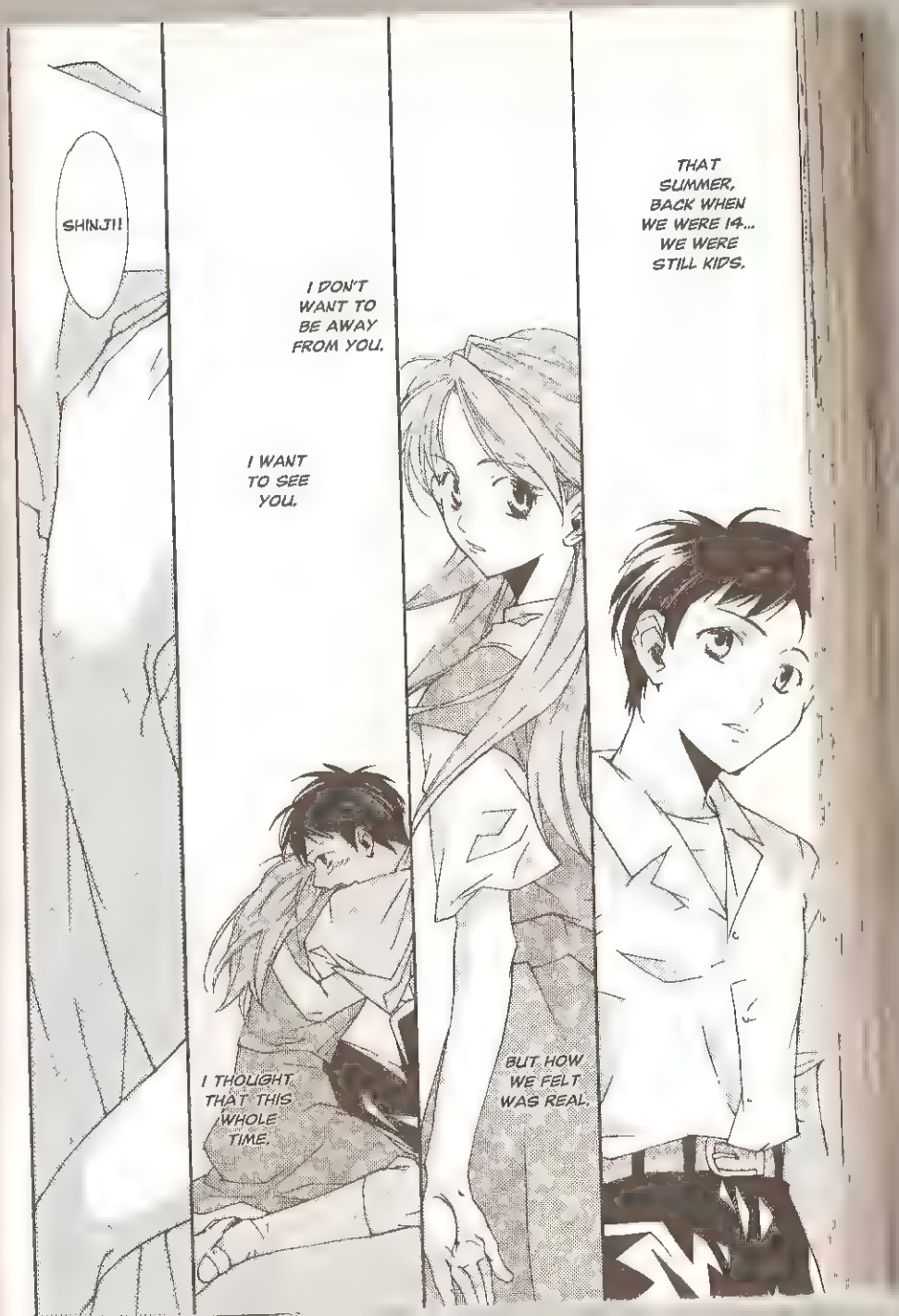


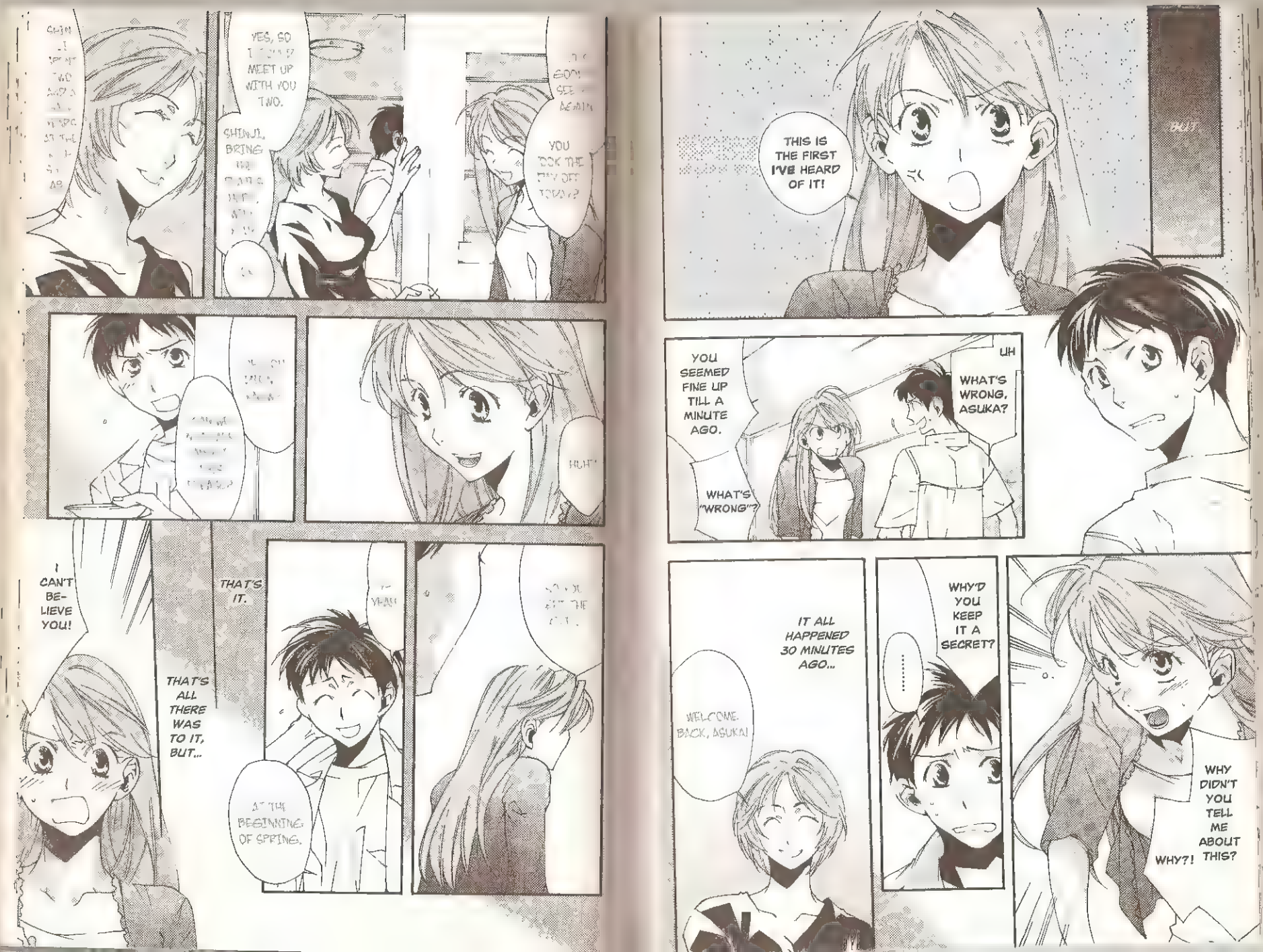


CHAPTER THREE: HIKARI AND TOJI / END



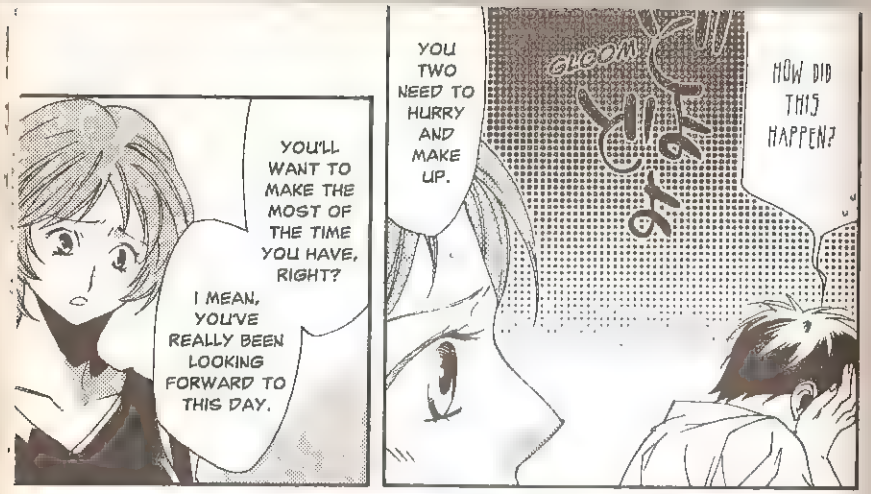
WE CAN HOLD HANDS AGAIN.

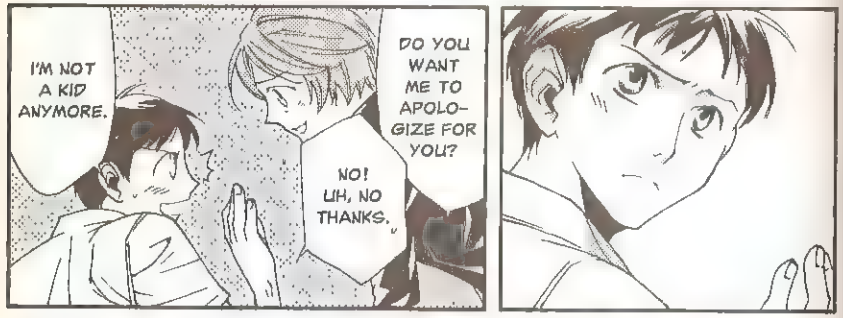

SHINJI!
I DON'T WANT TO BE AWAY FROM YOU.
I WANT TO SEE YOU.
I THOUGHT THAT THIS WHOLE TIME.
BUT HOW WE FELT WAS REAL.
THAT SUMMER, BACK WHEN WE WERE 14... WE WERE STILL KIDS.

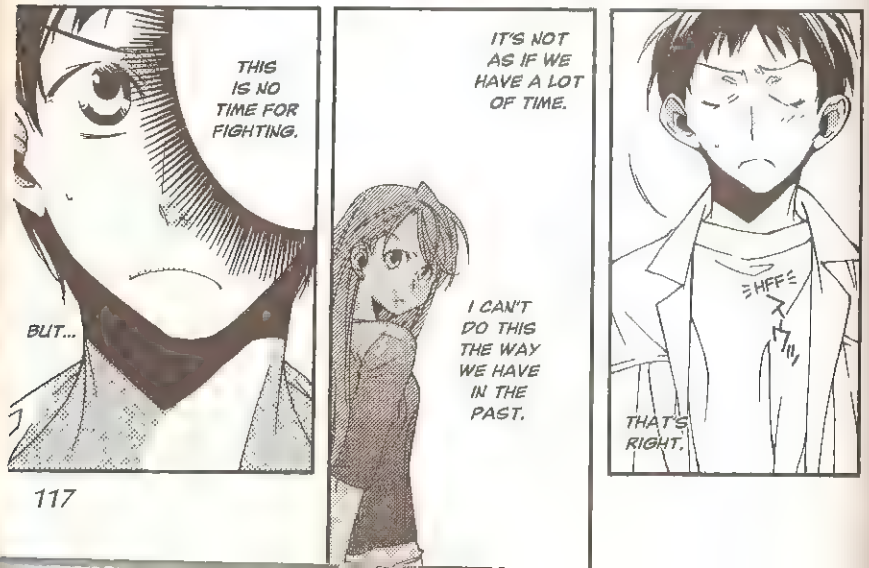

YES, SO I WAS MEET UP WITH YOU TWO.
SHINJI, BRING
YOU LOOK THE DAY OFF TODAY?
I CAN'T BE-LIEVE YOU!
THAT'S IT.
THAT'S ALL THERE WAS TO IT, BUT...
AT THE BEGINNING OF SPRING.
BUT.
THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF IT!
YOU SEEMED FINE UP TILL A MINUTE AGO.
WHAT'S "WRONG"?
UH
WHAT'S WRONG, ASUKA?
IT ALL HAPPENED 30 MINUTES AGO...
WELCOME BACK, ASUKA!
WHY'D YOU KEEP IT A SECRET?
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT THIS?
WHY?!

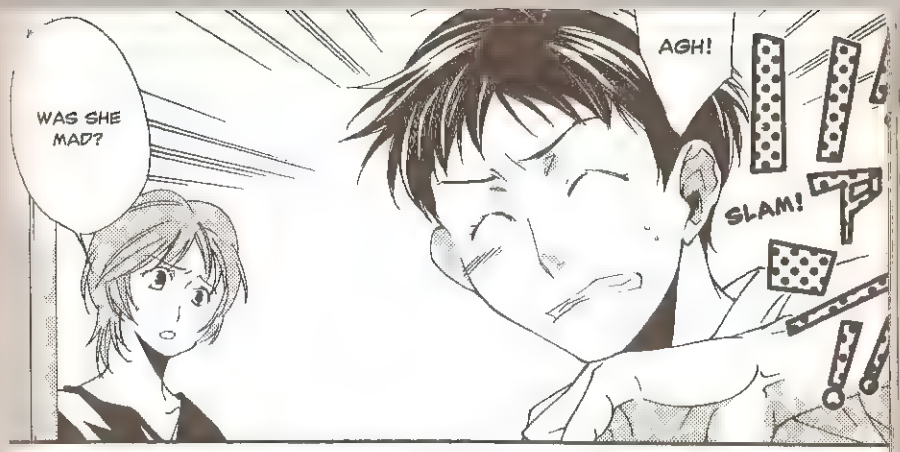
WHY CAN'T YOU UNDER-STAND?!
YOU IDIOT!
SORRY FOR THE INTRUSION.
ASU-KA?
HEY, ASU-KA!
ASUKA!
YOU ASS! I HATE YOU!
AS—

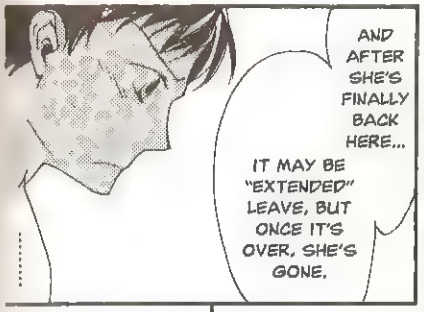
THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
THIS WAS IMPOR-TANT, SHINJI! WHY DID YOU HIDE IT?
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? I WAS GOING TO BE BACK BY SUMMER ANYWAY.
WE'RE HERE NOW, AREN'T WE?
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?!
YOU COULDN'T BE BOTHERED TO TELL ME, COULD YOU?!
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
WHAT MAKES IT SO IMPORTANT?
YOU STILL GOT MY LETTERS, RIGHT?
OF ALL THE STUPID...
ASU-KA?
CHAK
I JUST DIDN'T WANT YOU TO WORRY.


YOU'LL WANT TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE TIME YOU HAVE, RIGHT?
I MEAN, YOU'VE REALLY BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS DAY.
YOU TWO NEED TO HURRY AND MAKE UP.
GLOOM
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?


I'M NOT A KID ANYMORE.
DO YOU WANT ME TO APOLOGIZE FOR YOU?
NO! UH, NO THANKS.


THIS IS NO TIME FOR FIGHTING.
BUT...
IT'S NOT AS IF WE HAVE A LOT OF TIME.
I CAN'T DO THIS THE WAY WE HAVE IN THE PAST.
=HFF=
THAT'S RIGHT.


WAS SHE MAD?
AGH!
SLAM!

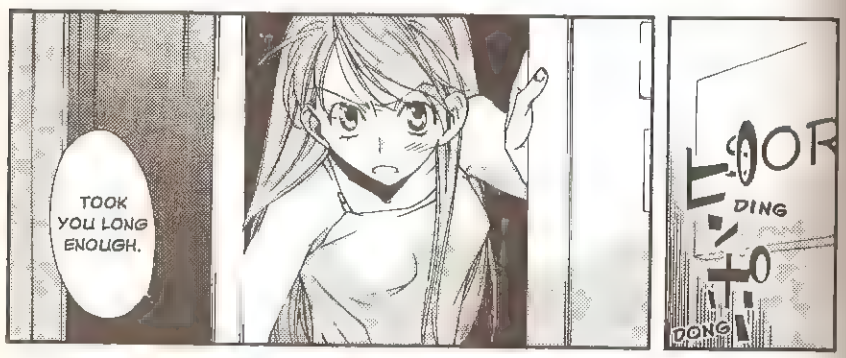

AND AFTER SHE'S FINALLY BACK HERE...
IT MAY BE "EXTENDED" LEAVE, BUT ONCE IT'S OVER, SHE'S GONE.
.....

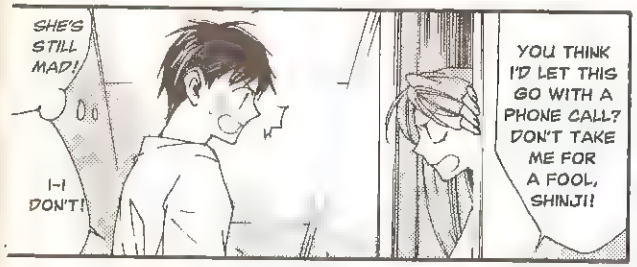
UH, N-NO.
IT LOOKED LIKE YOU TWO WERE FIGHTING.
I DIDN'T SAY SOMETHING WRONG, DID I?

I FINALLY GET TO SEE HER AGAIN. BUT...

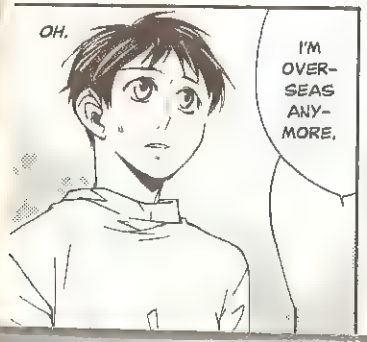
THAT SUMMER, WE WERE STILL JUST KIDS.
WHY DID THINGS COME TO THIS?
WE MEET AFTER ALL THIS TIME, AND THEN THIS HAPPENS.

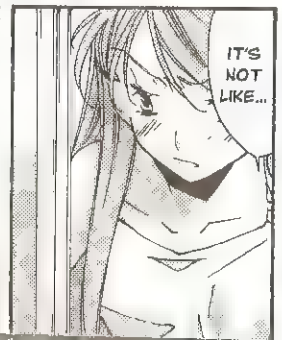
= SIGH =
I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO GO APOLO-GIZE IN PERSON.
PM 20:28

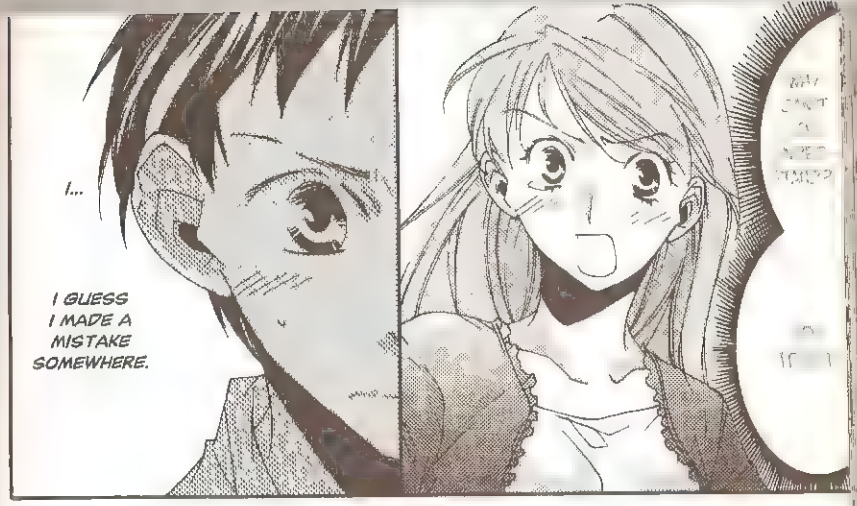

TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH.
FLOOR
DING
DONG


SHE'S STILL MAD!
I-I DON'T!
YOU THINK I'D LET THIS GO WITH A PHONE CALL? DON'T TAKE ME FOR A FOOL, SHINJI!

GAH!
I CALLED YOU, BUT YOU DIDN'T ANSWER.


OH.
I'M OVER-SEAS ANY-MORE.


IT'S NOT LIKE...

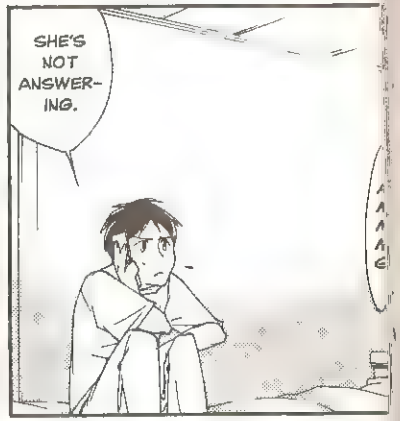

I...
I GUESS I MADE A MISTAKE SOMEWHERE.

ANYWAY...

RNNNG
RNNG
I SHOULD APOLOGIZE.

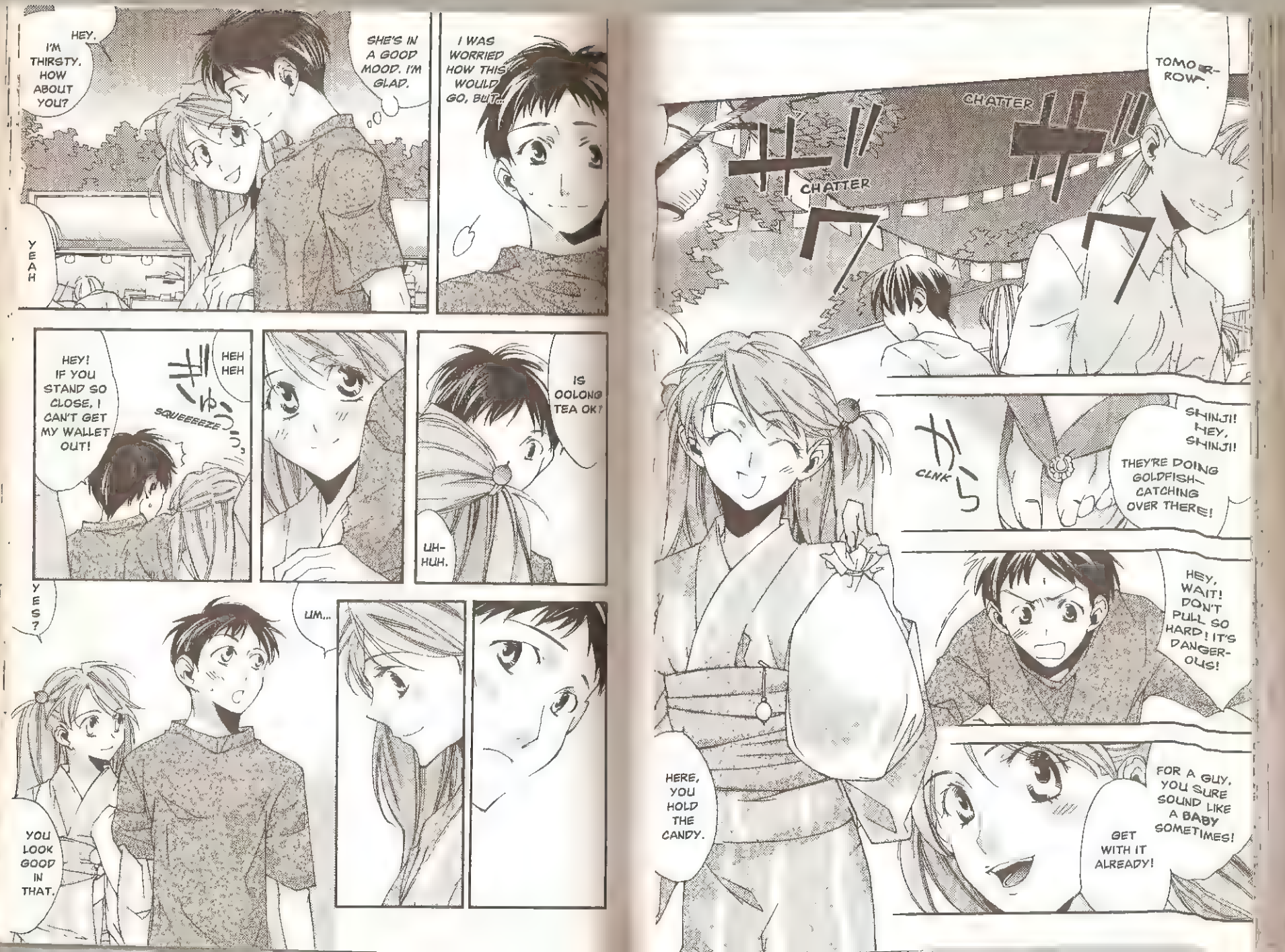
BEEP

SHE WAS MAD.
MAYBE SHE'S JUST NOT PICKING UP.


SHE'S NOT ANSWER-ING.
AAAAG

FIRE-WORKS
LET'S GO SEE SOME FIRE-WORKS.
FIREWORKS?
ONCE YOU WERE BACK IN JAPAN.
I TOLD MYSELF WE SHOULD DEFINITELY GO SEE THEM...
OK.
WHEN?
.....

.....
ASU-KA.
ABOUT EAR-LIER...
DO YOU UNDER-STAND NOW?
WELL?
I'LL BE SURE TO TELL YOU EVERY-THING, NO MATTER HOW SMALL.
HMPH.
WAIT!
IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN FORCED TO SAY THAT.
GAH!
.....
WHY ARE WE EVEN FIGHTING ABOUT THIS?
I MEAN, WE FINALLY GOT TO SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN!
THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT!
UM


HEY. I'M THIRSTY. HOW ABOUT YOU?
SHE'S IN A GOOD MOOD. I'M GLAD.
YEAH
I WAS WORRIED HOW THIS WOULD GO, BUT...
HEY! IF YOU STAND SO CLOSE, I CAN'T GET MY WALLET OUT!
HEH HEH
SQUEEEEZE
IS OOLONG TEA OK?
UH-HUH.
YES?
UM...
YOU LOOK GOOD IN THAT.
CHATTER
CHATTER
TOMORROW.
SHINJI! HEY, SHINJI!
CLNK
THEY'RE DOING GOLDFISH-CATCHING OVER THERE!
HEY, WAIT! DON'T PULL SO HARD! IT'S DANGEROUS!
HERE, YOU HOLD THE CANDY.
FOR A GUY, YOU SURE SOUND LIKE A BABY SOMETIMES!
GET WITH IT ALREADY!

PIPIN' HOT
WHAT?
YEAH! THANKS!
.....
HERE'S YOUR TEA.
YOU WANT SOME OF THIS TAKOYAKI?
YOU CAN TAKE IT OFF IF YOU LIKE.
THAT'S NOT THE POINT.
THEY'LL GET STUCK IN MY TEETH.
YEAH, SO?
THERE'S SEA-WEED FLAKES ON IT
OH, FINE.
YUM!
WE'LL BE ABLE TO WATCH THE FIREWORKS SITTING DOWN FROM HERE.

YEAH. FOR SURE.
Y-YOU THINK?
BLUSSSH
THANKS!
SURE.
LET'S HAVE A SEAT SOME-WHERE.
WE'VE GOT A LITTLE WHILE BEFORE THE FIREWORKS GO OFF.
SHINJI!
I GOT US A SPOT!
THANKS.
THAT'LL BE 400 YEN.
OK, HERE'S 400.

CLENCH

ARE'N'T I JUST FORCING YOU TO SAY THAT?

LOOK...

HUH?

THEN WHY ARE YOU HAVING SUCH A HARD TIME TALKING?!

NO, YOU'RE NOT!

ASUKA! STOP YELLING, WILL YOU?

COME ON.

I TOLD YOU YESTERDAY I'LL BE SURE TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING FROM NOW ON.

OK?

I...

UH...

!

BLGH!

ABOUT OUR CONVERSATION YESTERDAY...

UM...

Hmph!

YOU'RE STILL UPSET ABOUT THAT?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, STILL"?!

JEEZ. ARE YOU OK?

げほ COUGH

げほ COUGH

Y-YEAH.

OK, THEN SAY IT!

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I WAS ANGRY?

UH...

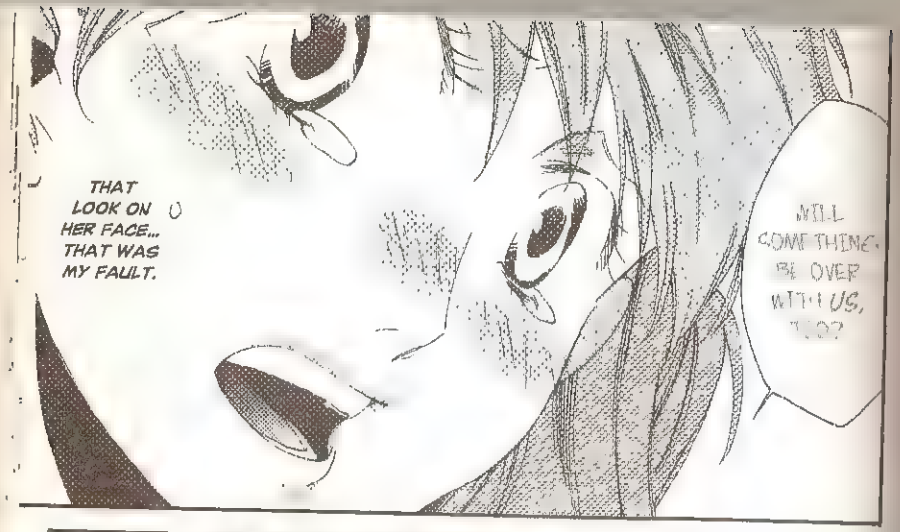
I HAVEN'T HEARD YOUR ANSWER YET.

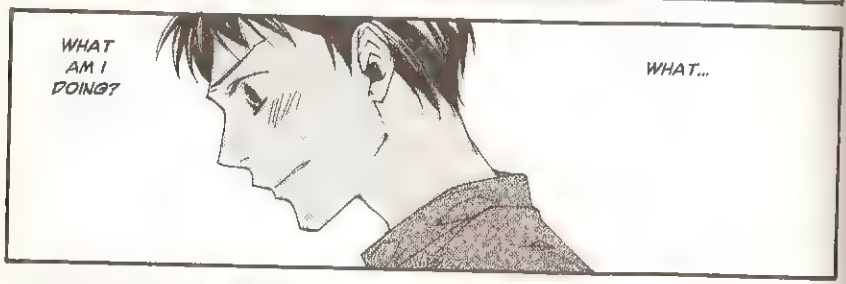
HOW I'M FEELING RIGHT NOW, RIGHT?

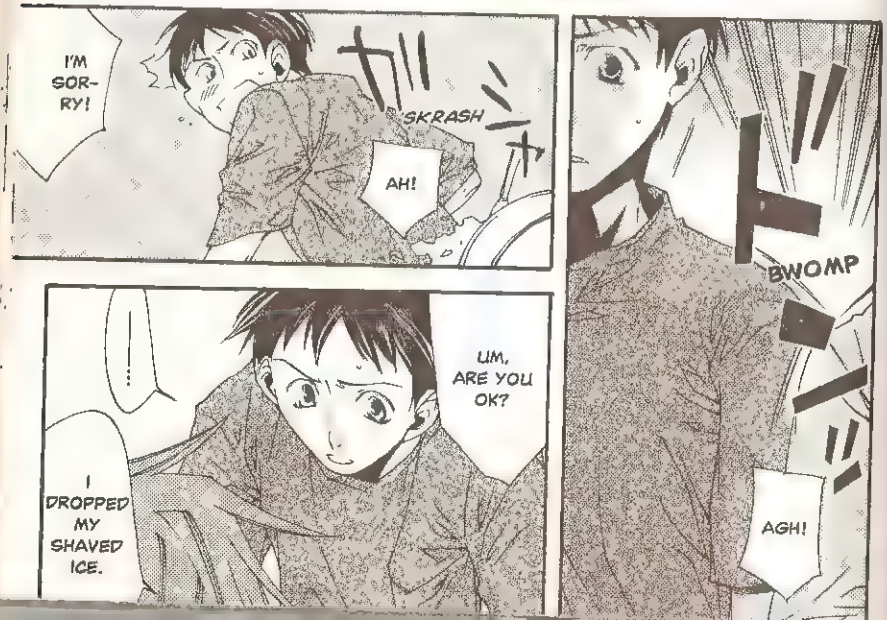
YOU KNOW...

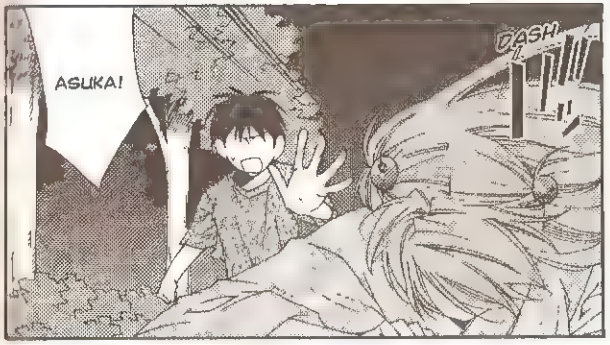
ASUKA
HUH?
WHEN SUMMER'S OVER, WILL SOMETHING BE OVER WITH US, TOO?

I'M GOING HOME.
ASUKA?
SHP.
ASUKA!
WHAT?! WE HAVEN'T EVEN WATCHED THE FIRE-WORKS!
JUST TRY TO BE IN A GOOD MOOD!
WHAT'S GOT YOU SO FLUSTERED?


THAT LOOK ON HER FACE... THAT WAS MY FAULT.
WILL SOMETHING BE OVER WITH US, TOO?

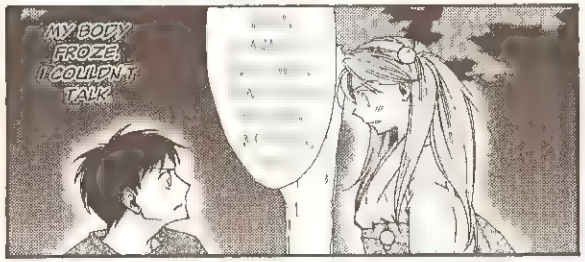

WHAT AM I DOING?
WHAT...

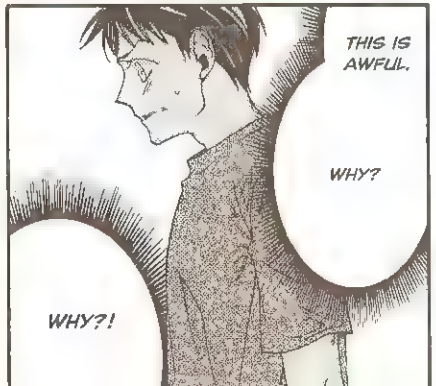

I'M SOR-RY!
SKRASH
AH!
BWOMP
AGH!
UM, ARE YOU OK?
I DROPPED MY SHAVED ICE.


ASUKA!
DASH

A...

HEY!
WAIT! ASUKA!


MY BODY FROZE. I COULDN'T TALK


THIS IS AWFUL.
WHY?
WHY?!

FOR A MOMENT...
ASUKA

THE FIRE-WORKS.
THEY'VE START-ED.
BOOM
ドン
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
YOUR FACE. YOU LOOK REALLY DISAP-POINTED.
YOU CAME TO WATCH THEM WITH YOUR GIRL-FRIEND, HUH?
DON'T RE-MIND ME.
ANY-WAY, YOU AREN'T HERE ALONE, ARE YOU?
YOU'RE IN JUNIOR HIGH, RIGHT?
I...
.....
SHE RAN OFF AND LEFT YOU HERE, HUH?

ANY-WAY, ARE YOU OK?
I'M SORRY I MADE YOU DROP IT.
ドン
BOOM
NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BUY ME A NEW ONE.

HM?
YOU TWO THE SAME AGE?
CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?
SPKK
SPKK
YEAH, I THINK SO.
I MEAN, WE WERE AL-WAYS TO-GETH-ER.
YOU'VE LIKED HER SINCE YOU WERE KIDS?
YEAH.
WE'RE OLD FRIENDS, I GUESS.
US TWO?
OH.
WHEN DID YOU FIRST KNOW YOU LIKED HER?
BOOM
AWOOO
WE WERE TOGETHER SO MUCH THAT I NEVER STOPPED TO THINK IF I LIKED HER OR HATED HER OR ANYTHING.
I'M ALL A-LONE.
BOOM
I DOUBT IT.
I DON'T KNOW.
I FEEL LIKE I'VE MET YOU BEFORE.
WHAT IS IT?
BOOM
IT FEELS LIKE... SOMETHING FROM A LONG TIME AGO.
YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS.

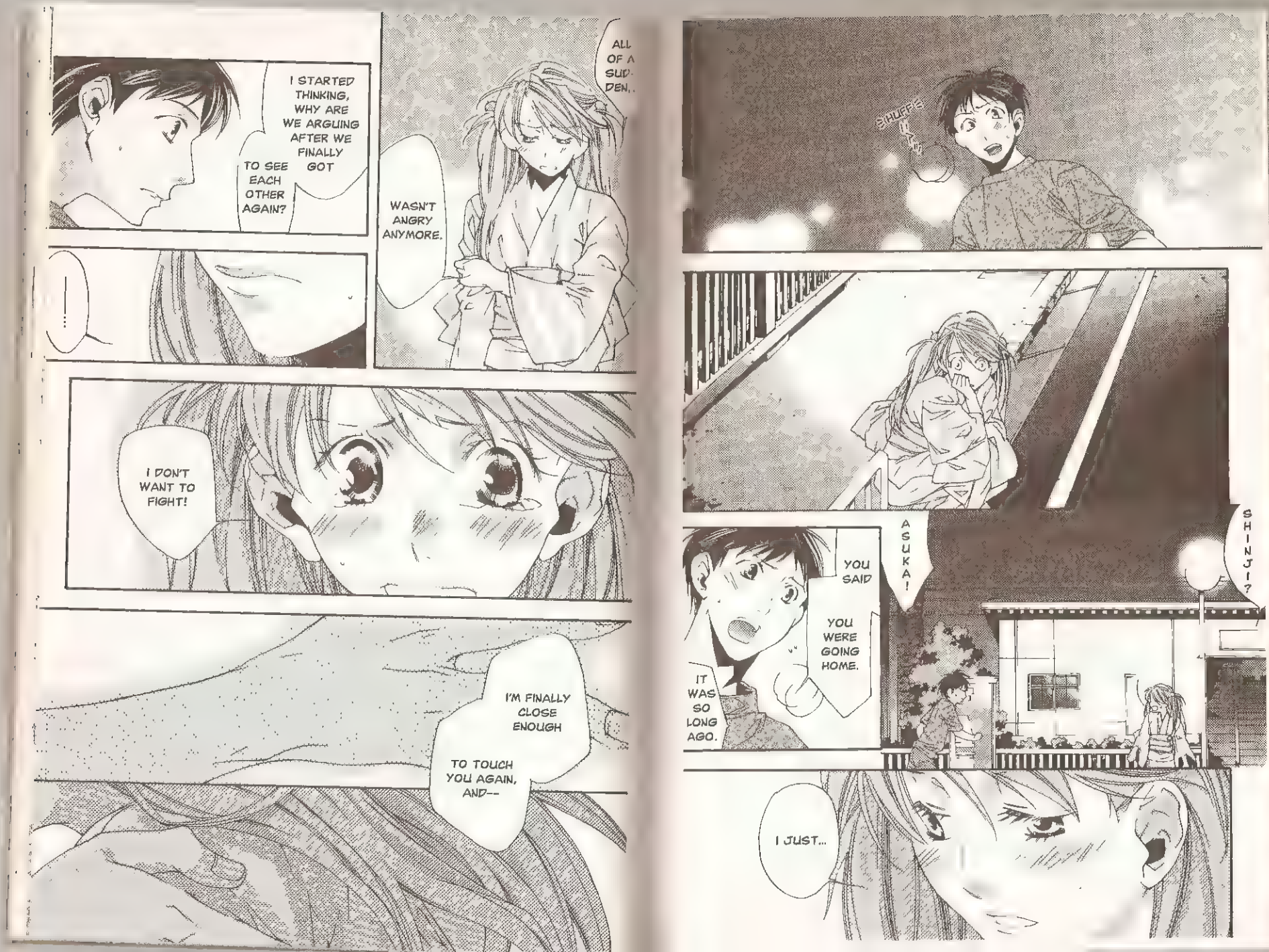
THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT.
THESE TWO HANDS...
WITHOUT THEM, I CAN'T DO ANYTHING AT ALL.
BUT...
I'M NOT SMART OR TALENTED...
THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN DO WITH THESE HANDS.
YES.
OH, YES.
WHY CAN'T YOU UNDER-STAND?!
WHAT'S GOT YOU SO FLUS-TERED?
AH!
WHY?

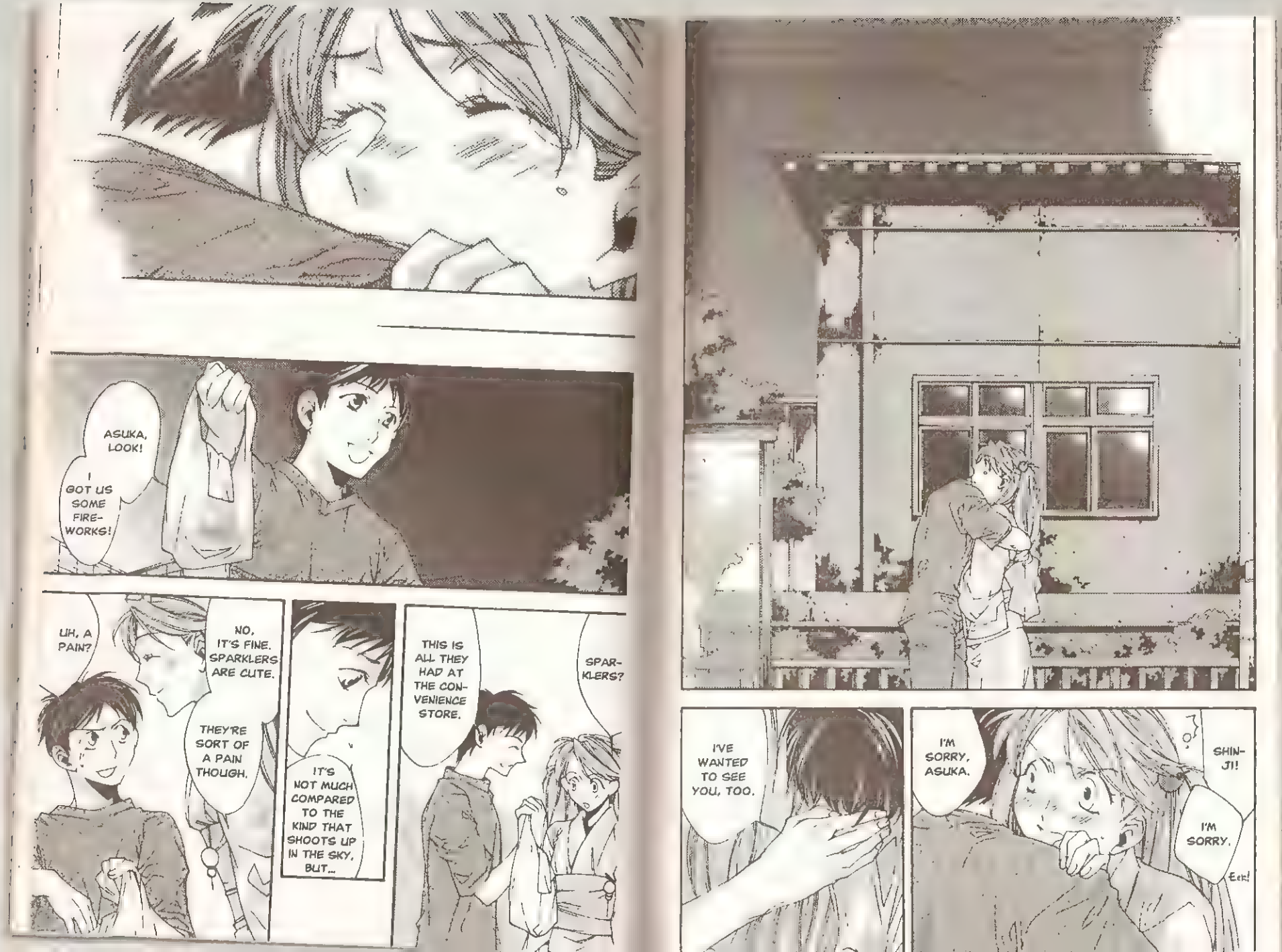
WHEN
WE WEREN'T ALWAYS TOGETHER ANYMORE.
OH.
HOW COULD I HAVE FORGOTTEN?
AND WHO WAS THE ONLY ONE I WAS LOOKING AT.
WHO WAS LOOKING AT WHOM...
THAT SUMMER IN JUNIOR HIGH... I FELT IT SO STRONGLY THAT I COULDN'T STAND IT.

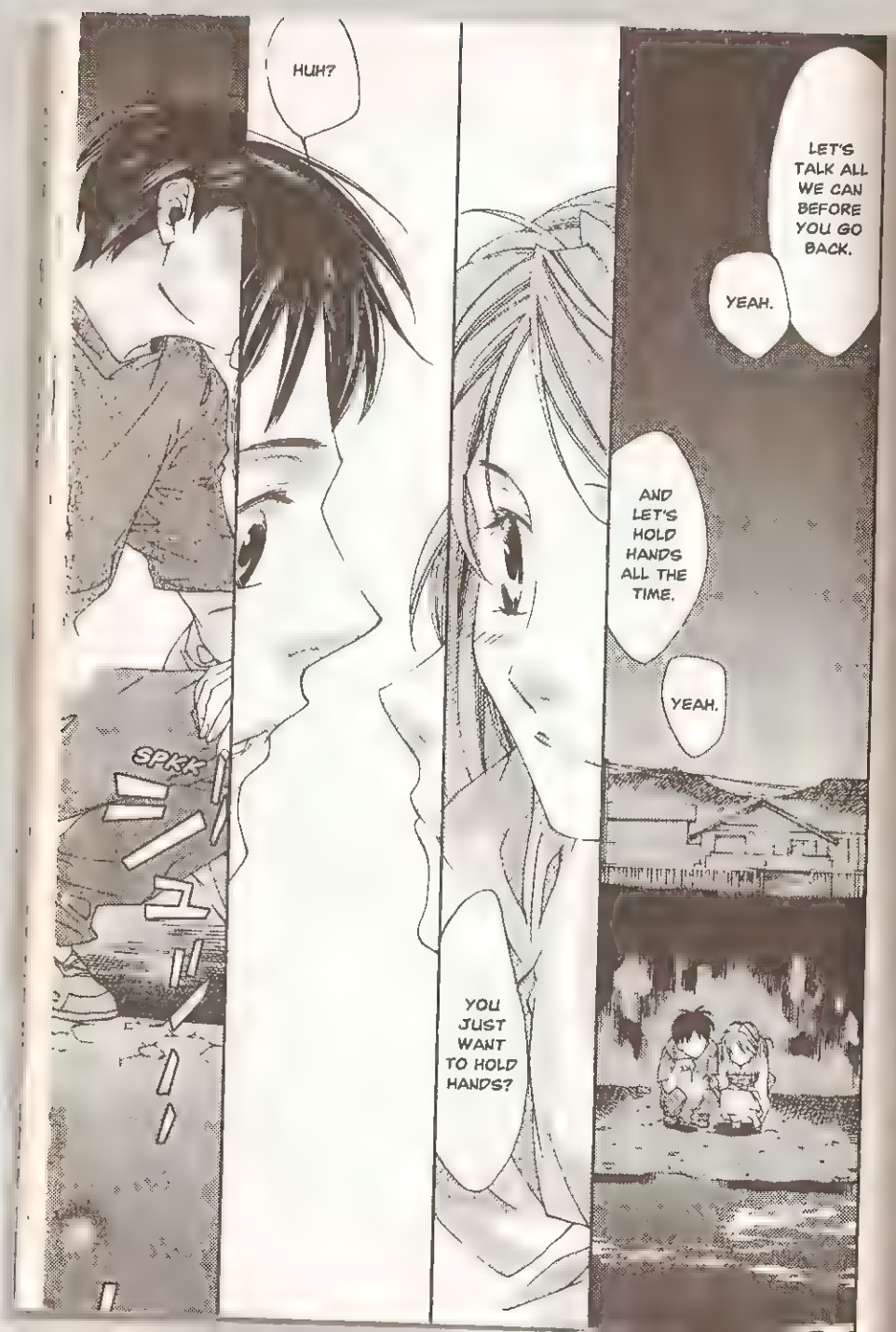
FINALLY
ALWAYS BEING TOGETHER... THAT'S IN THE PAST.
WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER IN SO LONG.
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT.
I NEVER...
I FINALLY SEE HER AGAIN, AND I...
MAKE THAT FACE.
WANTED TO MAKE HER...
SHE'S PROBABLY ON THE TRAIN.
I'VE GOT TO GO.
SHE'LL BE GONE BY NOW.
FINE.
I CAN'T LEAVE THINGS LIKE THIS.
YOU'RE GOING AFTER HER?
BWSH!!
BOOOOM
WE ARE ALL UNIQUE.
YEAH.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
THERE ARE MANY THINGS THEY'LL NEVER KNOW--NOT UNLESS YOU TELL THEM WITH WORDS.
NATURALLY, NO ONE CAN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.
AND...
NO ONE ELSE IS YOU.
JUST AS YOU ARE NO ONE ELSE.

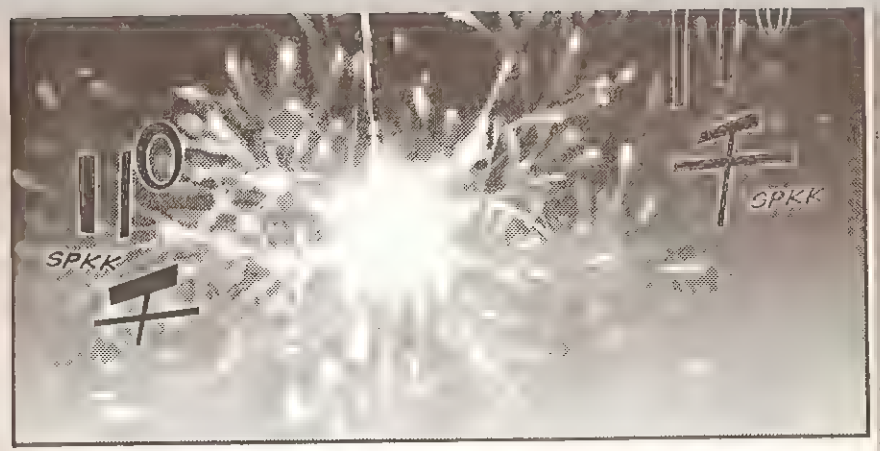
BOOM
SPKK
SPKK
SKRNCH

YOU'VE GOTTEN STRONGER.
OK. THANK YOU FOR THE SHAVED ICE.
BWSH
I'M GOING NOW.
HUH?
NO-THING.
GIVE ASUKA MY BEST. AND
I PRAY...
FOR EVERY-ONE'S HAPPI-NESS.
GOODBYE, SHINJI.

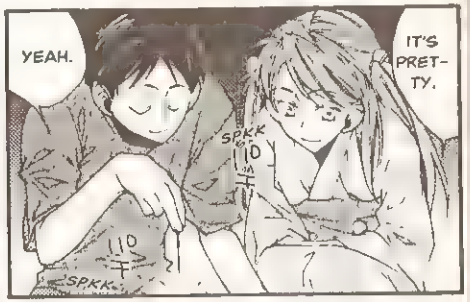

I STARTED THINKING, WHY ARE WE ARGUING AFTER WE FINALLY GOT TO SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN?
ALL OF A SUD-DEN,..
WASN'T ANGRY ANYMORE.
I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT!
I'M FINALLY CLOSE ENOUGH
TO TOUCH YOU AGAIN, AND--
SHUFF'S
ASUKA!
SHINJI?
YOU SAID
YOU WERE GOING HOME.
IT WAS SO LONG AGO.
I JUST...

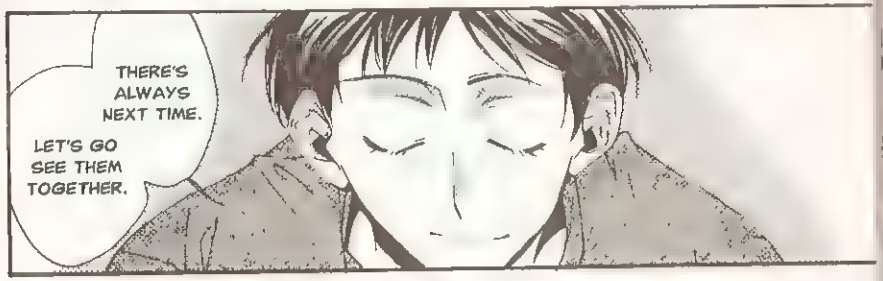

ASUKA, LOOK!
I GOT US SOME FIRE-WORKS!
UH, A PAIN?
NO, IT'S FINE. SPARKLERS ARE CUTE.
THEY'RE SORT OF A PAIN THOUGH.
IT'S NOT MUCH COMPARED TO THE KIND THAT SHOOTS UP IN THE SKY, BUT...
THIS IS ALL THEY HAD AT THE CON-VENIENCE STORE.
SPAR-KLERS?
I'VE WANTED TO SEE YOU, TOO.
I'M SORRY, ASUKA.
SHIN-JI!
I'M SORRY.
Eek!


HUH?
SPKK
YOU JUST WANT TO HOLD HANDS?
YEAH.
AND LET'S HOLD HANDS ALL THE TIME.
YEAH.
LET'S TALK ALL WE CAN BEFORE YOU GO BACK.


SPKK
SPKK

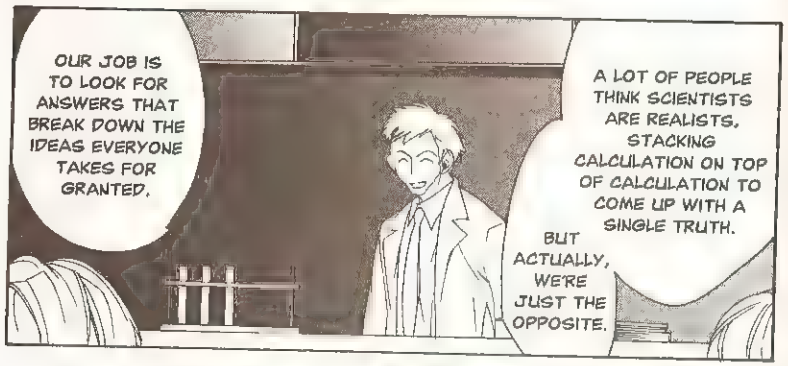
SORRY I RAN OFF AFTER YOU INVITED ME TO GO SEE REAL FIRE-WORKS.


YEAH.
IT'S PRET-TY.
SPKK
SPKK

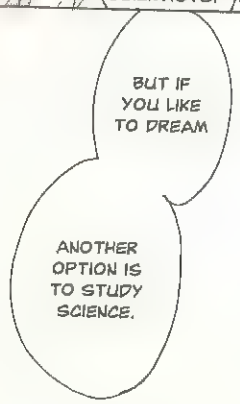

THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT TIME.
LET'S GO SEE THEM TOGETHER.

YEAH.

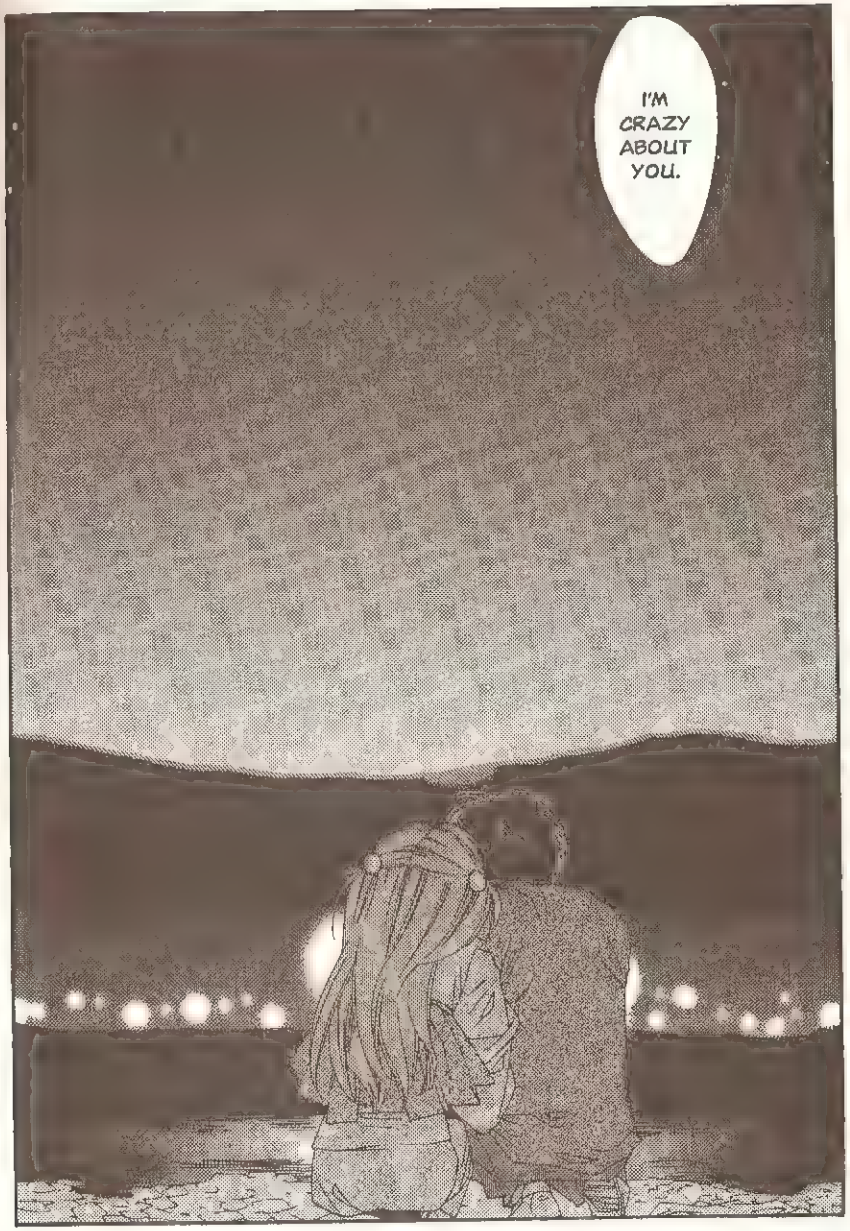
ONE DAY IN CLASS, THE TEACHER SAID:


OUR JOB IS TO LOOK FOR ANSWERS THAT BREAK DOWN THE IDEAS EVERYONE TAKES FOR GRANTED.
A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK SCIENTISTS ARE REALISTS, STACKING CALCULATION ON TOP OF CALCULATION TO COME UP WITH A SINGLE TRUTH.
BUT ACTUALLY, WE'RE JUST THE OPPOSITE.

A LOT OF PEOPLE WILL TELL YOU, IF YOU LIKE BOOKS, YOU SHOULD STUDY HUMANITIES...
IT'S A LOOSE WAY OF THINKING, ONE THAT QUESTIONS COMMON SENSE.
IF ANY-THING, IT HAS TO BE THE ROMANTICISTS THAT BECOME SCIENTISTS.



SIDE STORY ONE: TOWARD TOMORROW



CHAPTER FOUR: SHINJI AND ASUKA / END

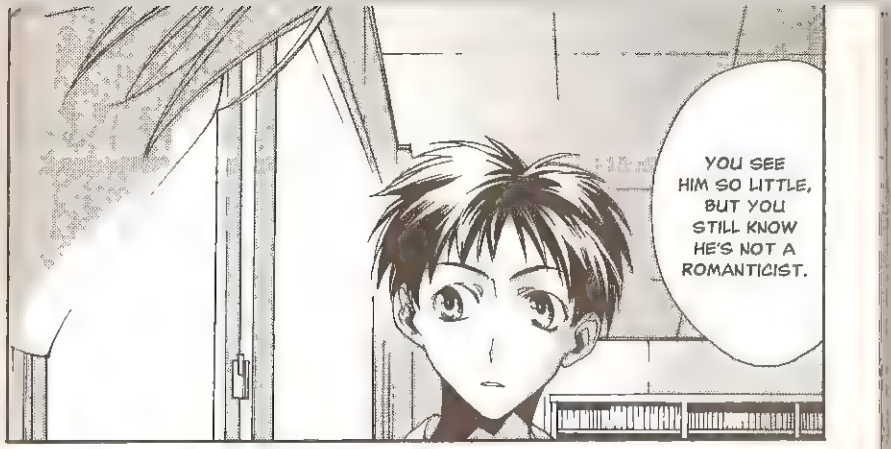
YEAH.
YUP! I PUT IN A REQUEST AND THEY ORDERED IT FOR ME.
YOU SURE LIKE BOOKS, DON'T YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
YEAH.
THAT
YOU MEAN ABOUT A CAREER IN SCIENCE?
I JUST REMEMBERED WHAT THE TEACHER SAID IN CLASS.
WHY?
I WONDER IF SCIENTISTS REALLY ARE ROMANTICISTS...

FLP
WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU, SHINJI?
SIGH
SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND?
YEAH, I GUESS.
AH.
THAT'S THE NEW BOOK WE GOT IN YESTERDAY.
KAWORU!

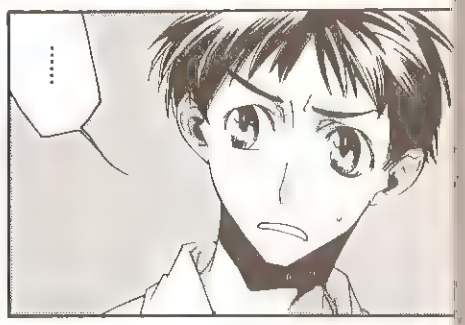
HAS YOUR DAD BEEN BACK HOME RECENTLY?
NO. MY MOM CAME BACK YESTERDAY
BUT WORK'S GOING TO KEEP MY DAD BUSY UNTIL THE WEEKEND.
SO SHE SAID.
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME I EVEN SAW HIM?
I THINK I MIGHT HAVE SEEN HIM LAST MONTH.
HE COMES HOME THAT LITTLE?
STRANGE

YOU HAVE TROUBLE BELIEVING WHAT THE TEACHER SAID?
MY MOM AND DAD
BOTH WORK IN A LAB.
TH...
YOU THINK?
THERE'S NO WAY!
HE JUST DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE TYPE, NOT AT ALL!
BUT MY DAD...
I CAN SEE IT IN MY MOM'S CASE.

HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE, KAWORU?
ARE YOU A ROMANTICIST?
OR ARE YOU A REALIST?
I BET HE LIKES BOOKS.
DAD...
.....
I DON'T KNOW.
CALL IT A HUNCH.
THERE YOU ARE!
YOU MIND IF I COME OVER TONIGHT?
RATTLE
ASUKA


YOU SEE HIM SO LITTLE, BUT YOU STILL KNOW HE'S NOT A ROMANTICIST.

WHY DON'T YOU TRY TALKING TO HIM?
I JUST GET THAT FEELING.
SOME-HOW.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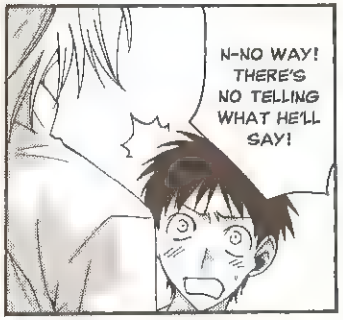
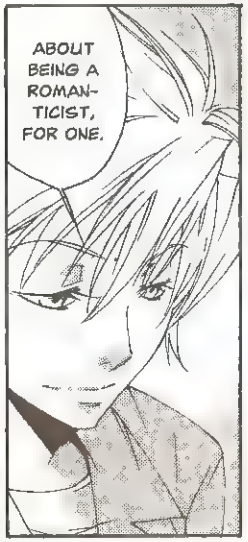
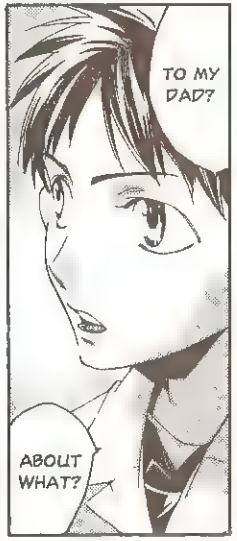
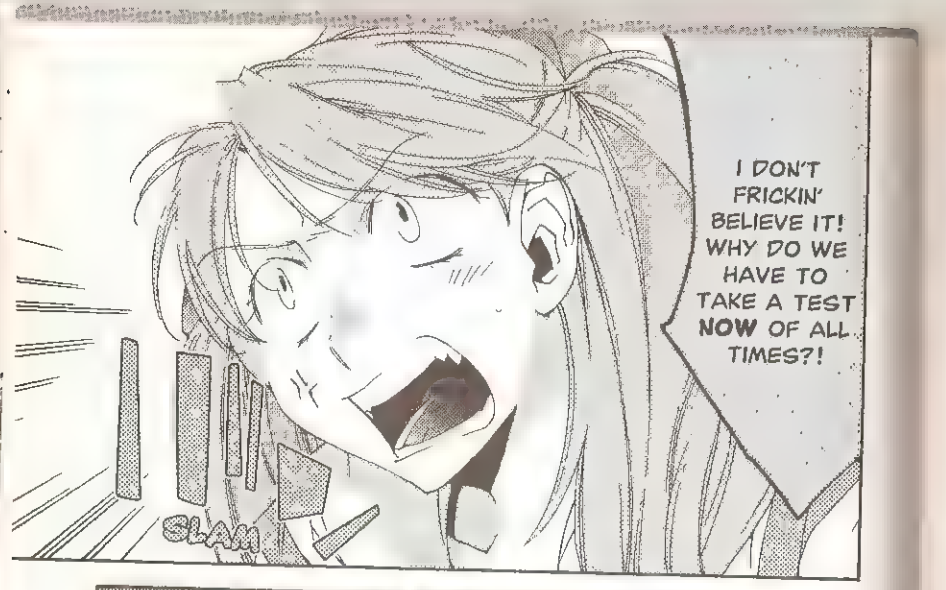
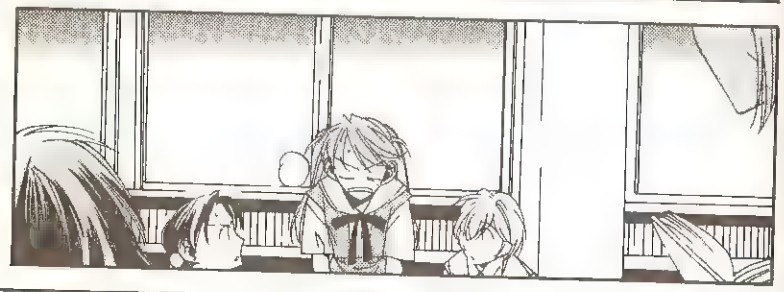

N-NO WAY! THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE'LL SAY!

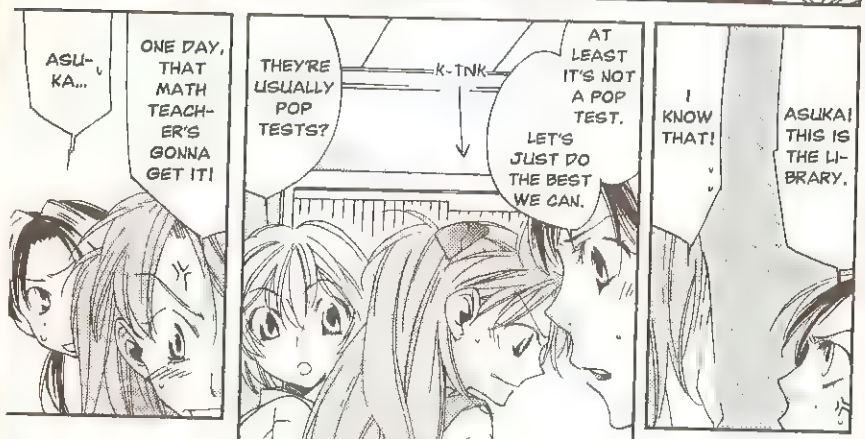

ABOUT BEING A ROMAN-TICIST, FOR ONE.

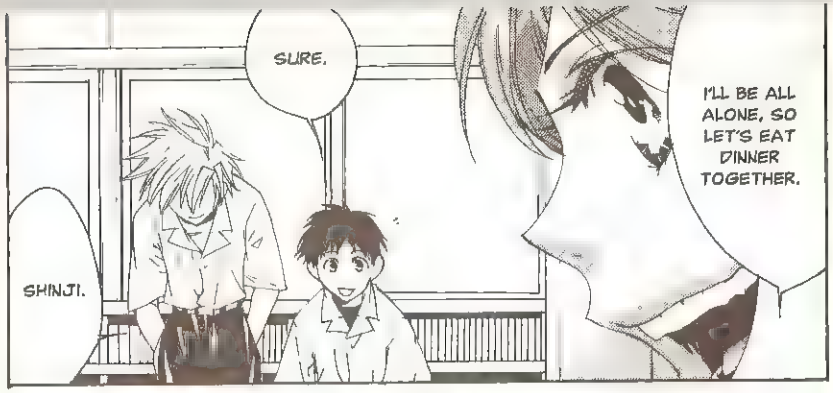

TO MY DAD?
ABOUT WHAT?

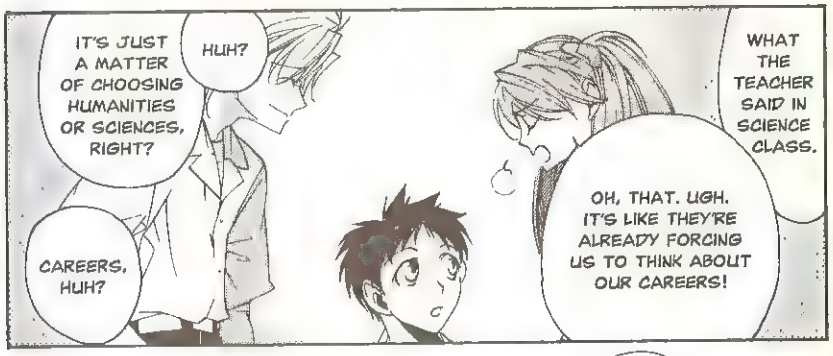
WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'LL SAY?

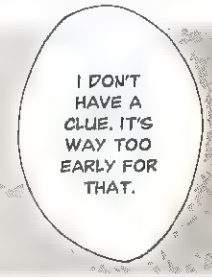





ASU-KA...
ONE DAY, THAT MATH TEACH-ER'S GONNA GET IT!
THEY'RE USUALLY POP TESTS?
K-TNK
AT LEAST IT'S NOT A POP TEST.
LET'S JUST DO THE BEST WE CAN.
I KNOW THAT!
ASUKA! THIS IS THE LI-BRARY.



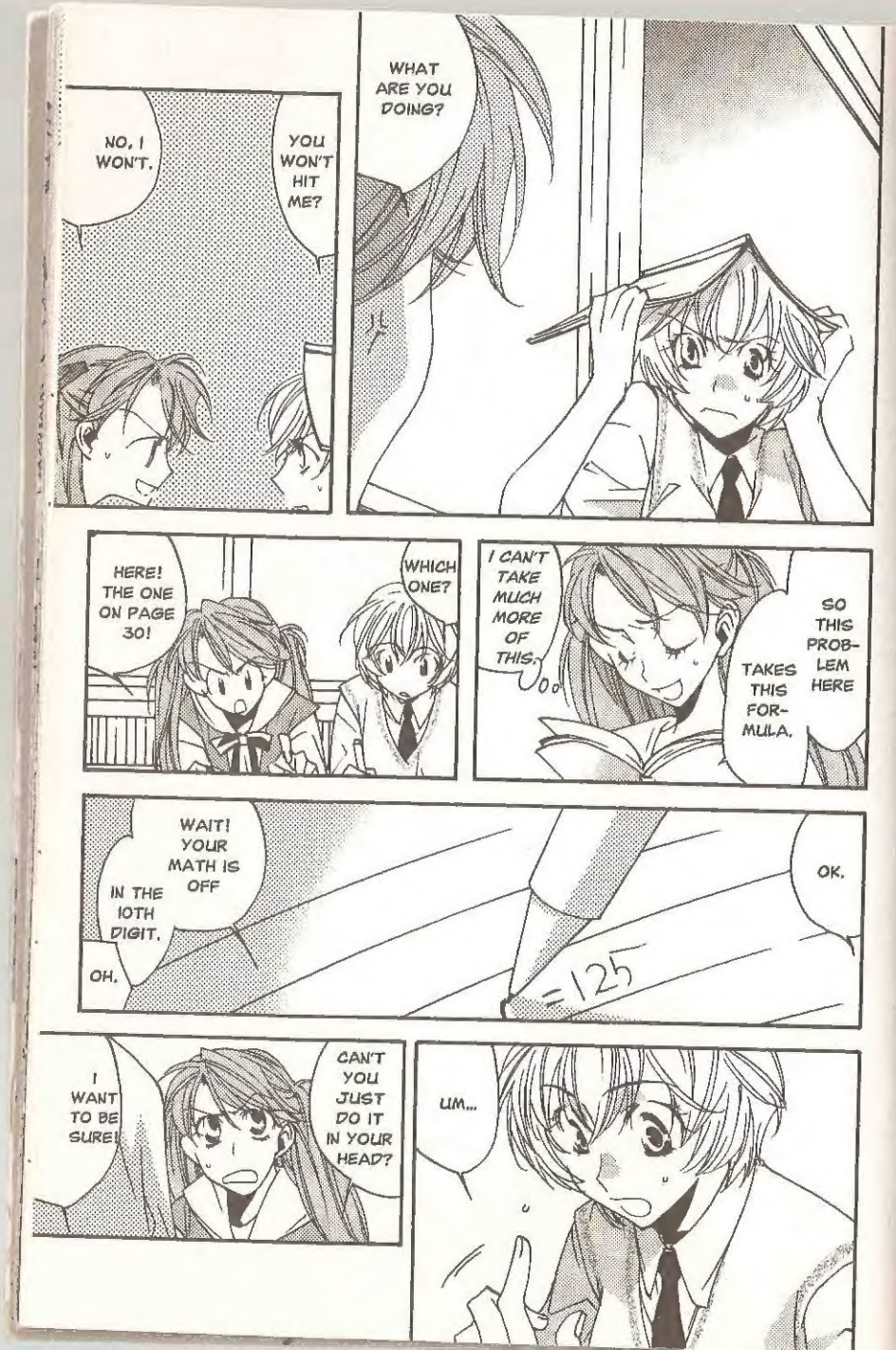

IT'S JUST A MATTER OF CHOOSING HUMANITIES OR SCIENCES, RIGHT?
HUH?
WHAT THE TEACHER SAID IN SCIENCE CLASS.
CAREERS, HUH?
OH, THAT. UGH. IT'S LIKE THEY'RE ALREADY FORCING US TO THINK ABOUT OUR CAREERS!



IT WAS STILL JUNE.

TONK
CLATTER
FIRST, YOU-
HOW DO YOU DO THIS PROB-LEM?
SHIP
HUH?
WHAT DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND?
FINE.
NO! I'LL TEACH HER!
ASUKA, IT'S FINE. I'LL TEACH HER.
HUH?
YEAH, THAT "TEACH-ING" IS...
THAT'S NOT TRUE! I TEACH SHINJI ALL THE TIME.
UM, ASUKA? YOU'RE NOT REALLY SUITED FOR TEACHING...

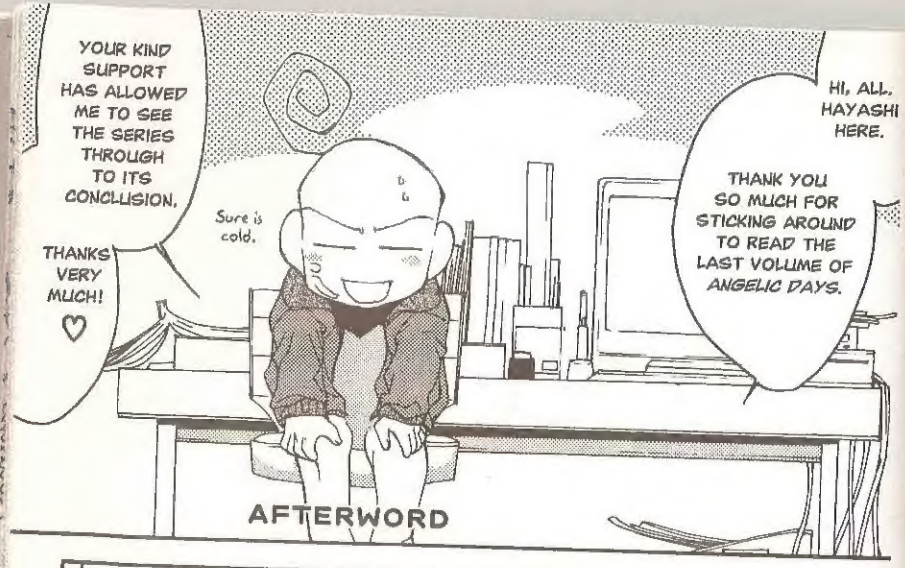
HEY! DON'T JUST GO PEERING AT OTHER PEOPLE'S NOTES!
I DON'T UNDER-STAND THIS PART.
HM?
HMM
ALL OF IT.
WHICH PART DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND?
THIS FOR-MULA HERE.
WHAT?
TAKE A LOOK AT PAGE 32 IN THE TEXTBOOK.
PAGE 32?
WHY DO YOU PLUG THESE NUMBERS IN HERE?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THEN...
OH, THIS?
YOU CAN USE THIS FOR-MULA?
THIS IS WHAT YOU DO.
HUH?


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU WON'T HIT ME?
NO, I WON'T.
WHICH ONE?
HERE! THE ONE ON PAGE 30!
I CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS.
SO THIS PROB-LEM HERE TAKES THIS FOR-MULA.
OK.
WAIT! YOUR MATH IS OFF IN THE 10TH DIGIT.
OH.
-125
CAN'T YOU JUST DO IT IN YOUR HEAD?
I WANT TO BE SURE!
UM...

SHPAK!
スパン
HEY!
QUIT HIT-TING ME!
WHAT ARE YOU, AN IDIOT?!
HOW CAN YOU NOT UNDER-STAND THIS?
SORT OF LIKE THAT.
UH...
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
THAT'S JUST TOUGH LOVE!
HERE.
HUH?!
THIS?
HOW CAN YOU NOT...
OK!
OPEN THAT NOTE-BOOK. WHAT DON'T YOU GET?
UM...

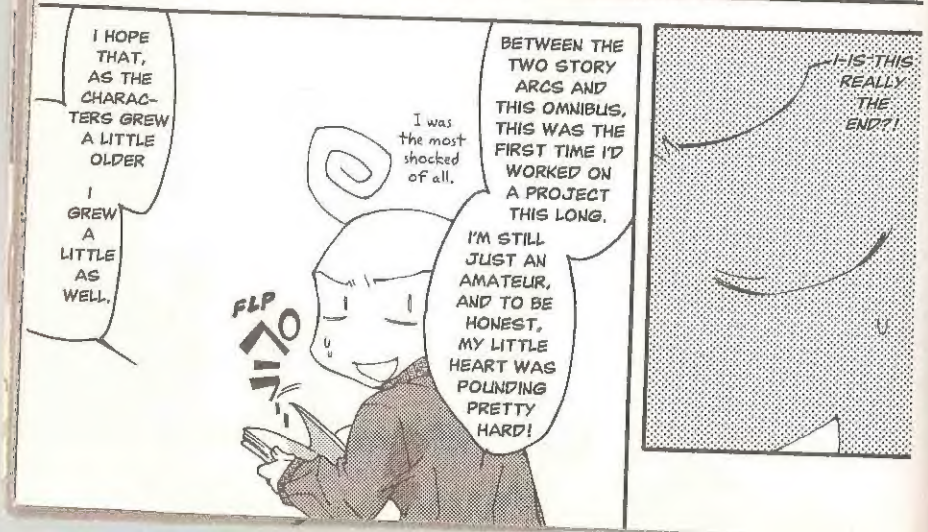
WOW.
THAT BACK-AND-FORTH AS EVERYONE COMPARES IDEAS... I REFUSE TO ACCEPT IT!
ANYWAY
I CAN'T STAND SUBJECTS WHERE THERE'S MORE THAN ONE RIGHT ANSWER.
THAT?
WHAT NEXT?
HERE. THIS SECOND ONE UNDER NO. 2.
YES, MA'AM!
RIGHT NOW, JUST DO YOUR MATH!
ASUKA! REI!
Shh!
HUH?
HUH?!
YOU MESSED UP YOUR CALCULATIONS AGAIN!
IT'S FINE.
I SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO YOU TOO, ASUKA. I JUST CAN'T DO THIS ON MY OWN...
UM, SORRY.
SORRY.

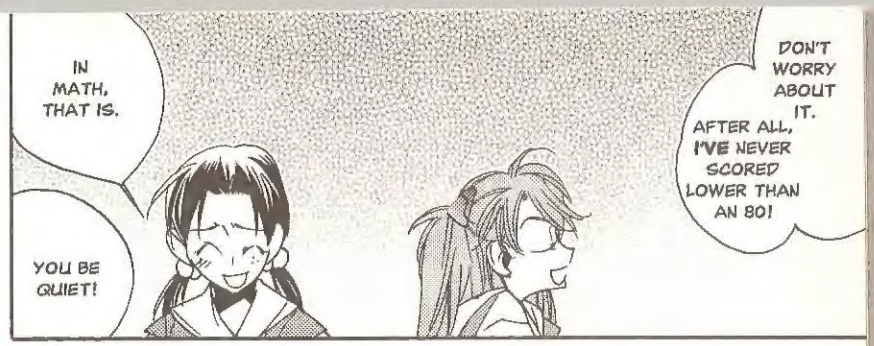
YUP.
I DID IT!
IS THAT IT?
"PHEW"
REALLY? I THINK NOT HAVING TO STUDY FOR A TEST IS MORE FUN.
IT'S FUN!
I'VE NEVER STUDIED WITH SOMEONE ELSE BEFORE!
UGH. DON'T REMIND ME.
ONCE WE'VE FINISHED THESE, WE STILL HAVE FINALS.
ASUKA'S GOT HER HANDS FULL WITH THAT AS IT IS. I CAN HELP YOU WITH LIBERAL ARTS.
SURE, BUT NOT SOCIAL STUDIES AND LANGUAGE.
CAN YOU STUDY WITH ME?

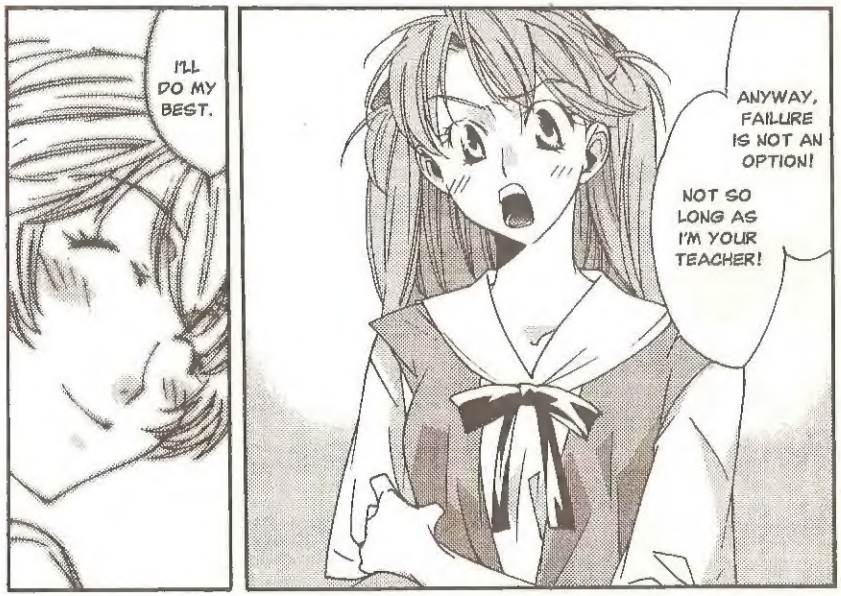

YOUR KIND SUPPORT HAS ALLOWED ME TO SEE THE SERIES THROUGH TO ITS CONCLUSION.
THANKS VERY MUCH! ♡
Sure is cold.
HI, ALL. HAYASHI HERE.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR STICKING AROUND TO READ THE LAST VOLUME OF ANGELIC DAYS.

AFTERWORD

BUT NOW, THIS AFTER-WORD OFFICIALLY MARKS THE END.
HMM, WHAT SHOULD I SAY?
BEFORE I REALIZED IT, I'D BEEN AT THIS FOR ALMOST THREE YEARS.
I HAVEN'T VISITED THIS MANGA SINCE SUB-MITTING THE FINAL INSTALL-MENT...


I HOPE THAT, AS THE CHARAC-TERS GREW A LITTLE OLDER
I GREW A LITTLE AS WELL.
I was the most shocked of all.
BETWEEN THE TWO STORY ARCS AND THIS OMNIBUS, THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D WORKED ON A PROJECT THIS LONG.
I'M STILL JUST AN AMATEUR, AND TO BE HONEST, MY LITTLE HEART WAS POUNDING PRETTY HARD!
FLP
I-IS THIS REALLY THE END?!

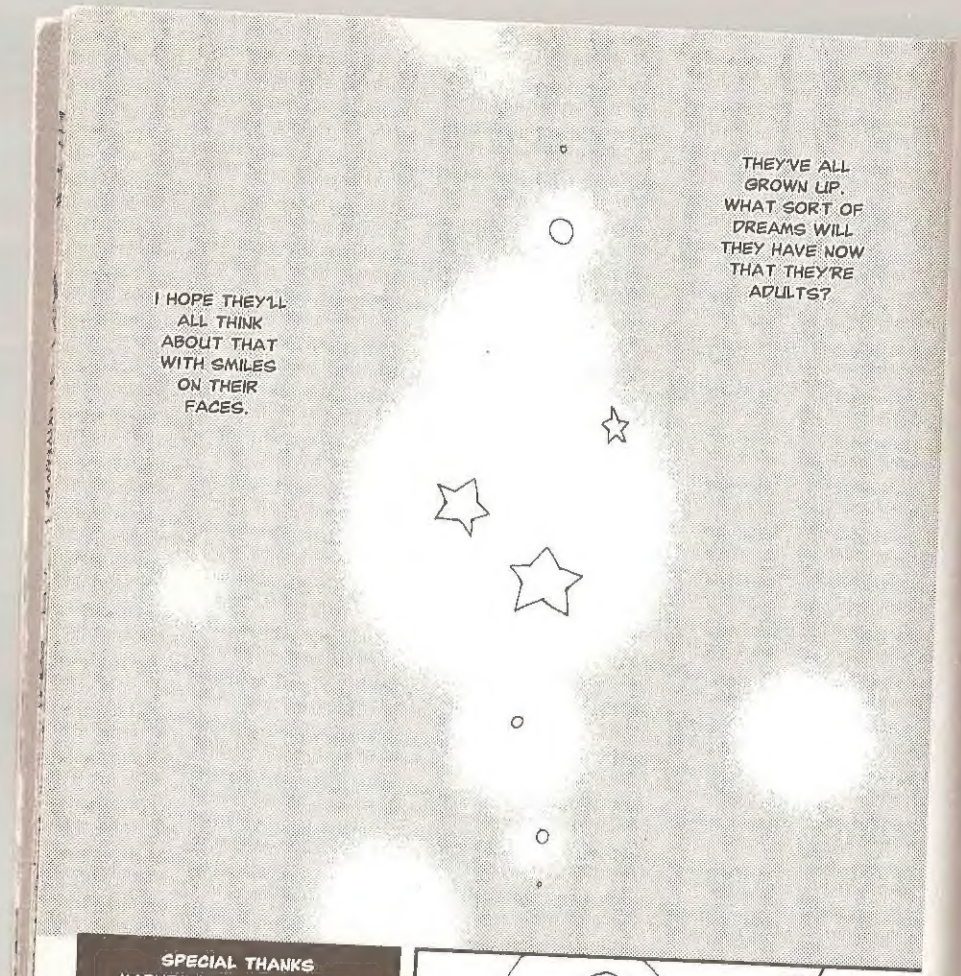




HOWEVER

I--
UH, I'M GLAD FOR YOU.
I SHOULD HAVE STUDIED...
68?!
ASUKA!
I PASSED! JUST BARELY, BUT IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I ACTUALLY PASSED. THANK YOU.

SIDE STORY TWO: TOMORROW IS TOMORROW / END


I HOPE THEY'LL ALL THINK ABOUT THAT WITH SMILES ON THEIR FACES.
THEY'VE ALL GROWN UP. WHAT SORT OF DREAMS WILL THEY HAVE NOW THAT THEY'RE ADULTS?

SPECIAL THANKS

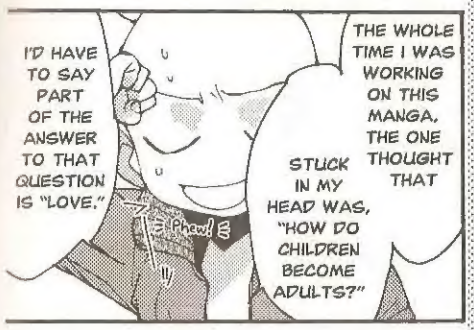
MARUTANI AND YMOTO (NICE ASSISTANTS!)
SUZUKI AND OKUNOGI (EDITORS)
HEAD EDITOR NONOGUCHI
THANKS VERY MUCH!

AND THANK YOU EVERYONE WHO'S STUCK WITH ME THROUGHOUT THIS PROJECT.

HAYASHI'S OFFICIAL HOMEPAGE: HTTP://SERPENT.SUB.JP/

I'M SLOOOWLY WORKING ON THIS. IT'LL HAVE INFORMATION ON PROJECTS I'M WORKING ON, CAT-THEMED MANGA, ETC.

AFTERWORD / END


I'D HAVE TO SAY PART OF THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION IS "LOVE."
THE WHOLE TIME I WAS WORKING ON THIS MANGA, THE ONE THOUGHT THAT STUCK IN MY HEAD WAS, "HOW DO CHILDREN BECOME ADULTS?"

DECIDING WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT IS A PROBLEM ONLY YOU CAN SOLVE.
MAKING THOSE CHOICES ONE BY ONE IS WHAT MAKES US ADULTS.
NO MATTER HOW WE LIVE OUR LIVES, THERE ARE STILL ONLY 24 HOURS IN A DAY.
THEN SUD-DENLY, WHAM! HERE COMES THIS BOLT FROM THE BLUE THAT TAKES UP MORE TIME AND ENERGY.

OF COURSE, NOT EVERYONE GETS TO GO THROUGH IT...

AS CHILDREN, WE CAN SAY, "I WANT THIS! AND THIS!" BUT AS ADULTS, IT DOESN'T WORK LIKE THAT. IT'S A PAINFUL EXPERIENCE.